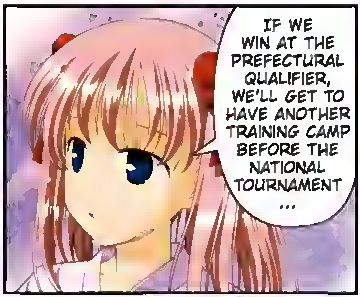
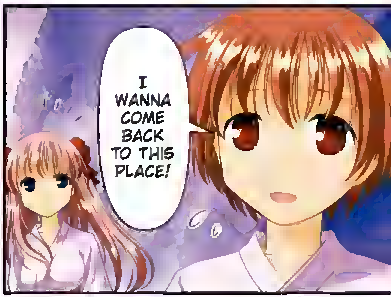
2
Saki
RITZ
KOBAYASHI

Saki
2
RITZ KOBAYASHI
RECEIPT

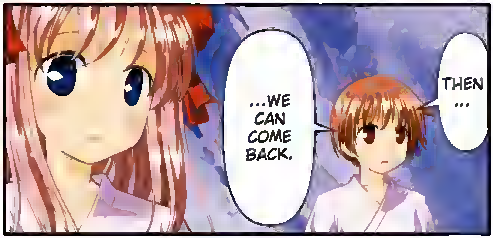
LOOKING BACK, EVEN OUR TOUGH TRAINING CAMP...

...WAS FULL
OF FUN
MEMORIES...


IF WE WIN AT THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER, WE'LL GET TO HAVE ANOTHER TRAINING CAMP BEFORE THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT ...

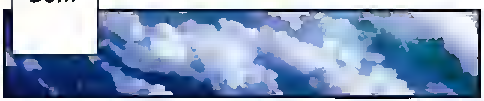

I WANNA COME BACK TO THIS PLACE!

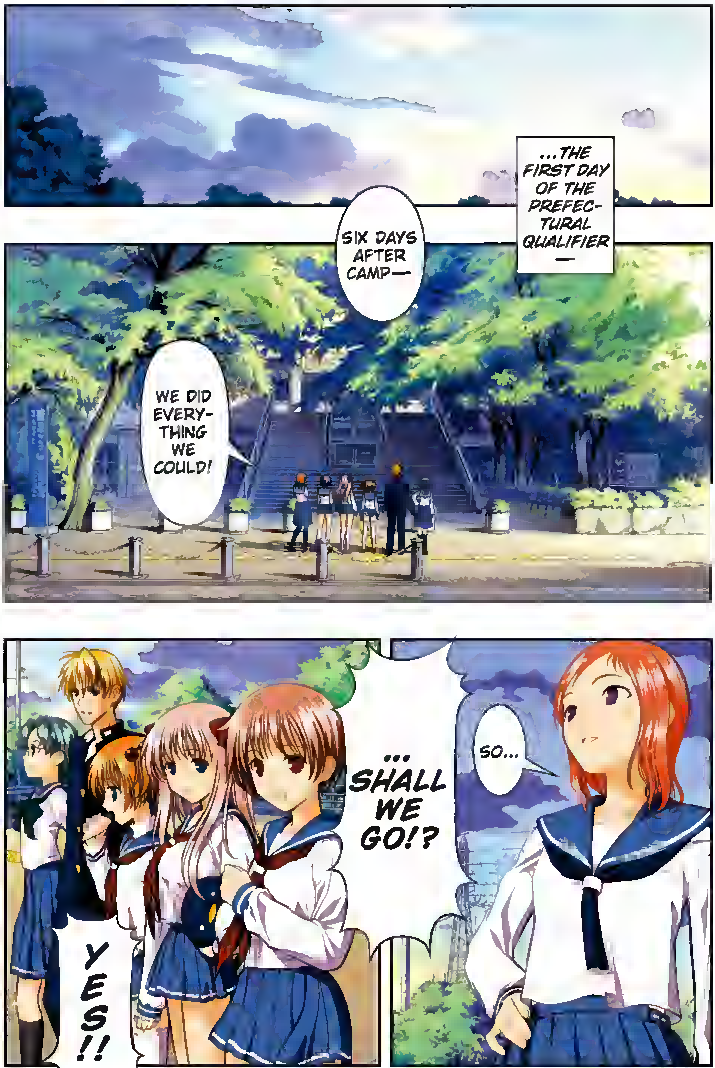
... THAT'S RIGHT.


...WE CAN COME BACK.
THEN ...

LET'S DO THAT FOR SURE...!

AND SO...




...THE FIRST DAY OF THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER —
SIX DAYS AFTER CAMP—
WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD!
SO...
...SHALL WE GO!?
YES!!

High School Student Mahjong Tournament
Prefectural Qualifier Venue
HAND 7: QUALIFIER

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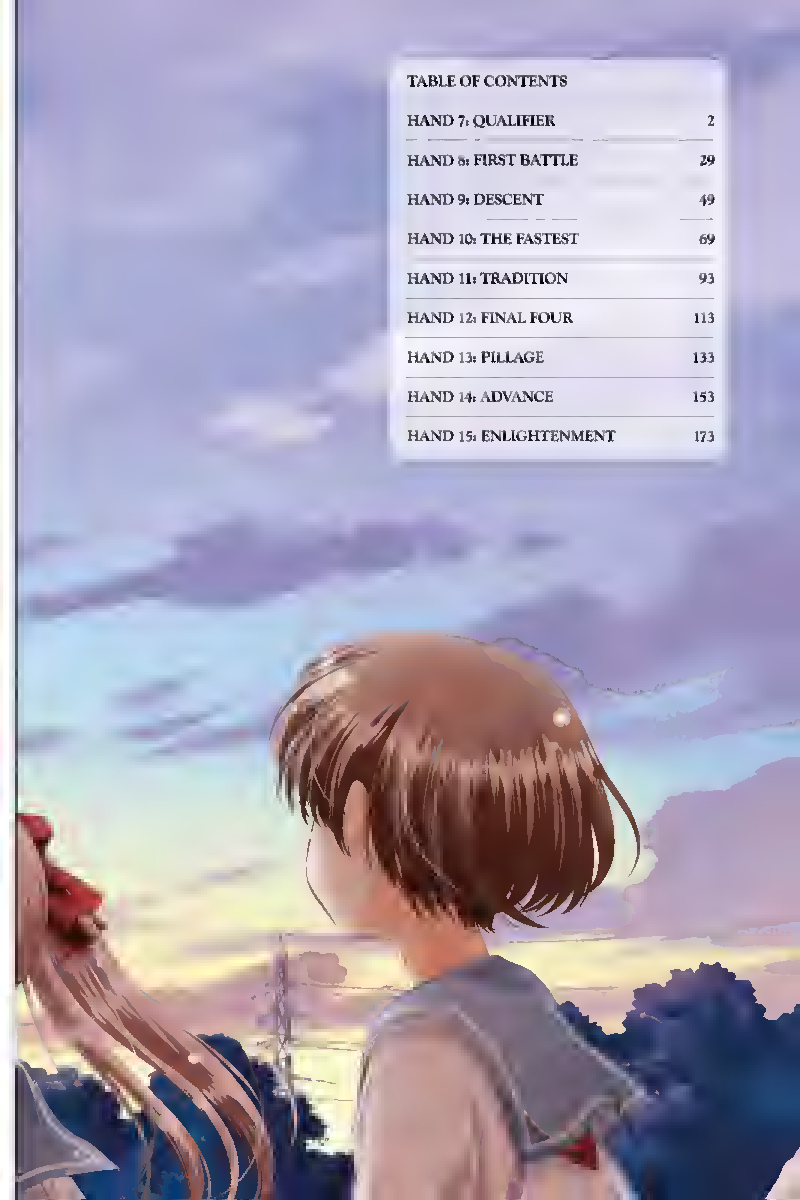
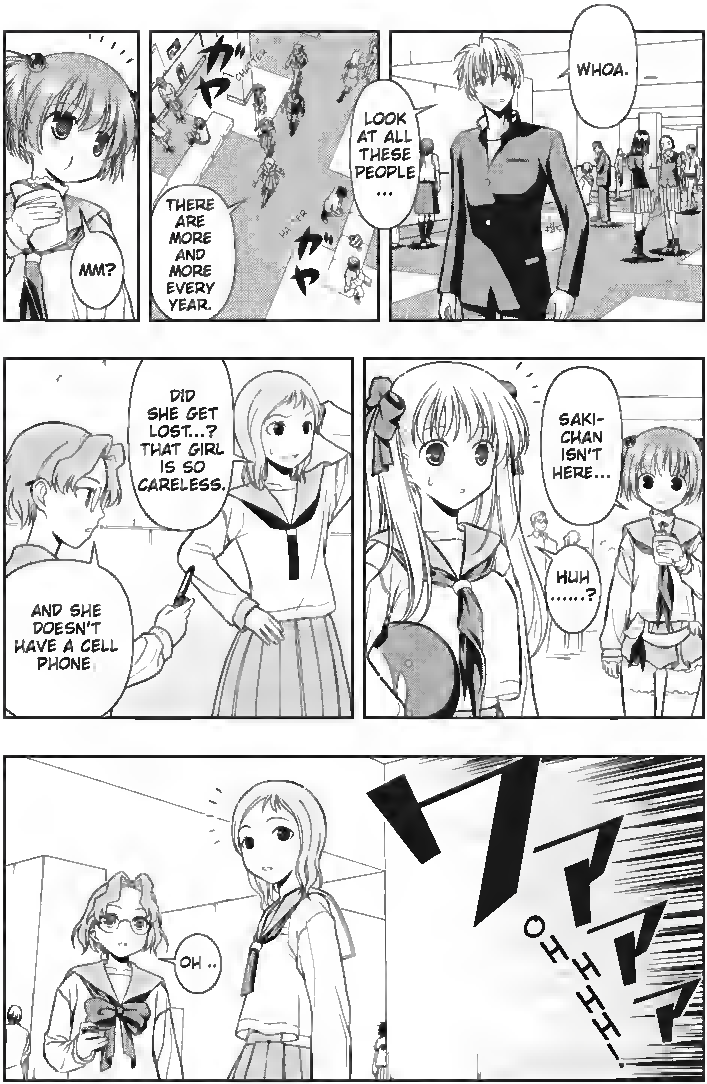
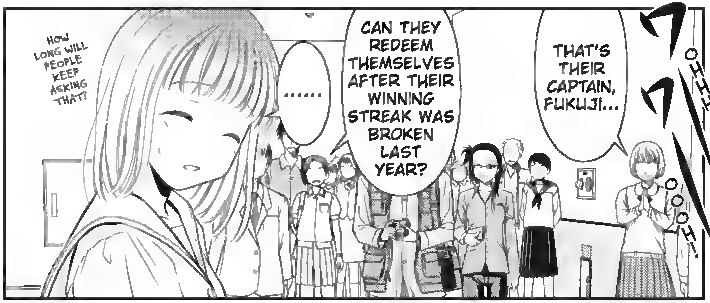
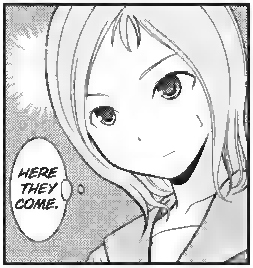
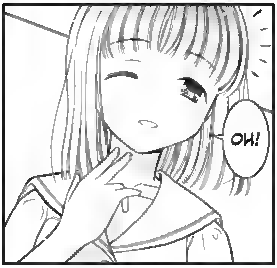


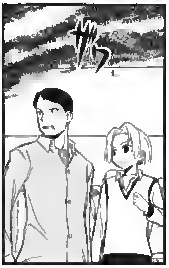

MM?
ガヤ
ガヤ
THERE ARE MORE AND MORE EVERY YEAR.
LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE ...
WHOA.
DID SHE GET LOST..? THAT GIRL IS SO CARELESS.
AND SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE
SAKI-CHAN ISN'T HERE...
HUH .....?
OH ..
ワアアア
OIIII!

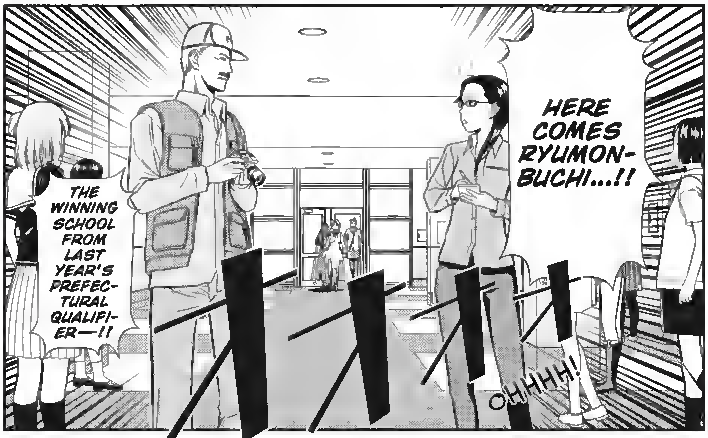
IT'S KAZE-KOSHI GIRLS' SCHOOL!
AHH!
THEY'RE A CHAMPION TEAM WITH EIGHTY MEMBERS .....!!
OOOH!
THEY WERE THE RUNNER-UP IN LAST YEAR'S REGIONALS!


HOW LONG WILL PEOPLE KEEP ASKING THAT?
.....
CAN THEY REDEEM THEMSELVES AFTER THEIR WINNING STREAK WAS BROKEN LAST YEAR?
THAT'S THEIR CAPTAIN, FUKUJI...
OHHH!!
OOH!


HERE THEY COME.


OH!

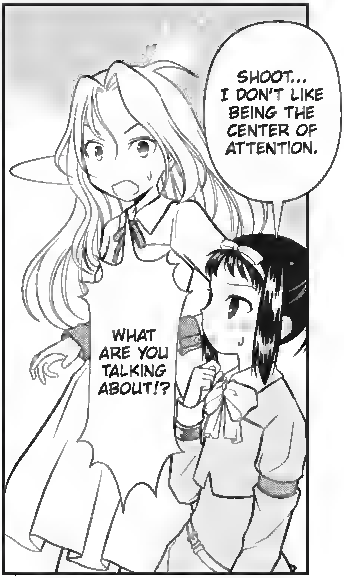


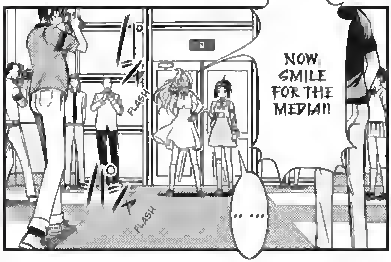

THE WINNING SCHOOL FROM LAST YEAR'S PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER—!!
HERE COMES RYUMONBUCHI...!!
OHHHH!

JUN IN-OUE!
OHHHH!
TO-MOKI SAWA-MURA!

OHHHH!
HA-JIME KUNI-HIRO!
TOKA RYU-MON-BUCHI!
LAST YEAR'S BIG FOUR LOOK READY TO WIN FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW...!!

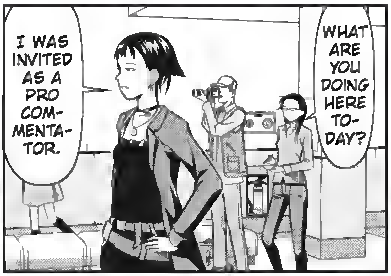
GET USED TO IT!
BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION IS THE WHOLE POINT!!
GLARE
クワッ

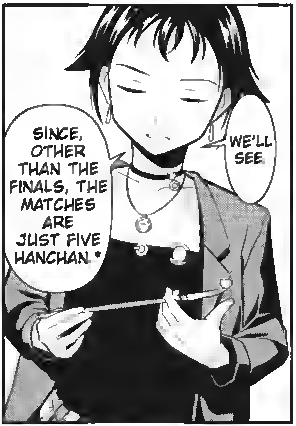

SHOOT... I DON'T LIKE BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

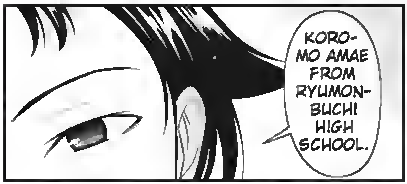

NOW, SMILE FOR THE MEDIA!!
FLASH
FLASH
... ...

FUJITA, THE CLOSER QUEEN!!
HELLO.

I SEE AMAE ISN'T HERE.

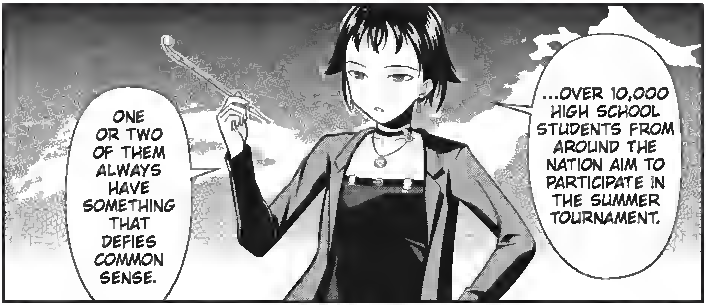




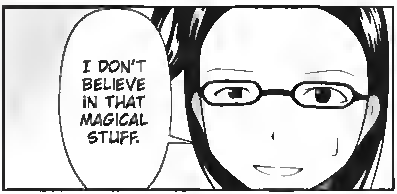


HANCHAN: A FULL MAHJONG GAME

EVERY YEAR...
ARE YOU SAYING SHE WAS JUST LUCKY?
...BUT WASN'T SHE STILL PLAYING LIKE A NOVICE?
AMAE DEFINITELY BLOSSOMED LAST YEAR..
WHAT!?

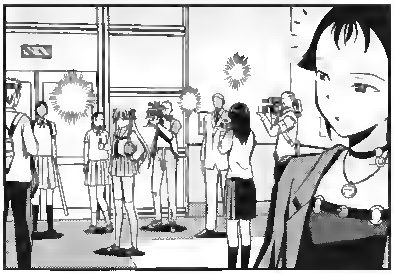

...OVER 10,000 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE NATION AIM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT.
ONE OR TWO OF THEM ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING THAT DEFIES COMMON SENSE.

TWO YEARS AGO, IT WAS TERU MIYANAGA FROM WESTERN TOKYO.
LAST YEAR, IT WAS JINDAI FROM KAGO-SHIMA ...
...AND KOROMO AMAE.


I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT MAGICAL STUFF.

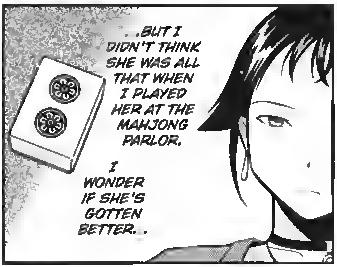
I'D RATHER NOT BELIEVE IT MYSELF.

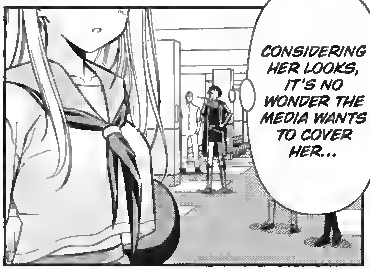
WE MAY SEE ANOTHER GIRL "WHO IS LOVED BY THE TILES" THIS YEAR TOO.



THERE'S NODOKA HARAMURA!!

NODOKA HARAMURA— THE CHAMPION OF LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT
SHE'S THE BIGGEST "GET" HERE!!
EXCUSE ME! I'M GOING TO INTERVIEW HER!
GO AHEAD


. . .BUT I DIDN'T THINK SHE WAS ALL THAT WHEN I PLAYED HER AT THE MAHJONG PARLOR.
I WONDER IF SHE'S GOTTEN BETTER. .


CONSIDERING HER LOOKS, IT'S NO WONDER THE MEDIA WANTS TO COVER HER...

GET FAR...?

IT LOOKS LIKE KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAY ALSO GET FAR, SINCE YOU'VE JOINED THEIR CLUB.

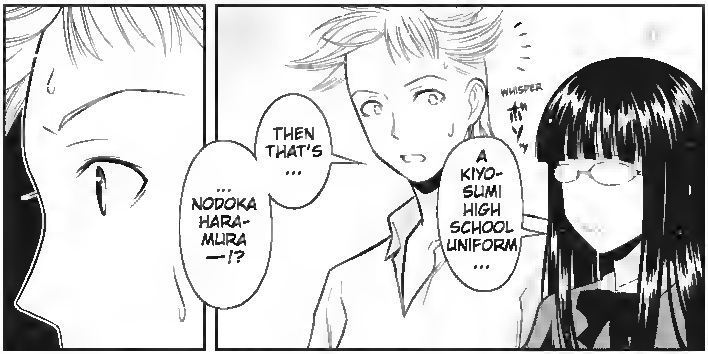
BUT ALSO ...
.....

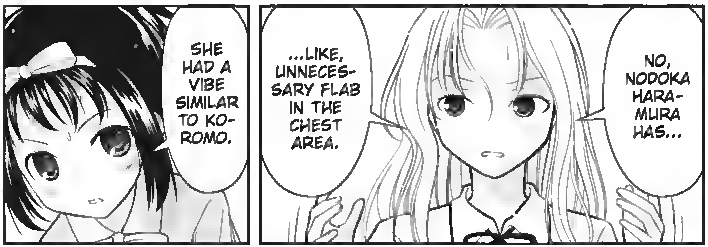
WE'RE AIM-ING TO WIN...
...THE NA-TION-ALS!
AGAIN ?

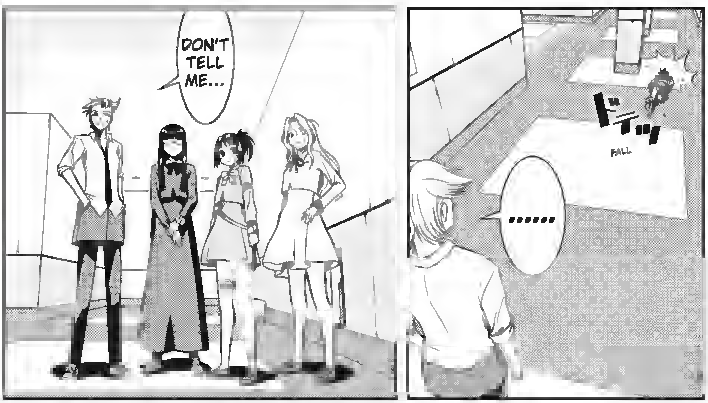
?

UHM...
I'M TOTALLY LOST...
...I'M NOT THE ONLY MEMBER AT KIYOSUMI —!!
KOROMO IS LATE!
WOBBLE WOBBLE
I BET HER ALARM CLOCK'S BROKEN AGAIN.
WOW ...
I WENT TO HER HOUSE YESTERDAY AND SET FIVE ALARMS.

SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER


WHISPER
A KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM...
THEN THAT'S...
...NODOKA HARAMURA—!?


NO, NODOKA HARAMURA HAS...
...LIKE, UNNECESSARY FLAB IN THE CHEST AREA.
SHE HAD A VIBE SIMILAR TO KOROMO.


DON'T TELL ME...
FALL
.....

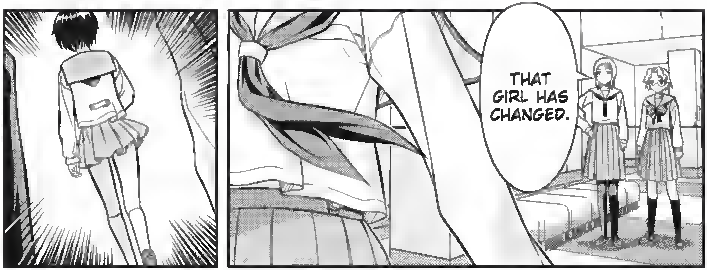
...THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE LIKE KOROMO!?
SOB
SAKI CHAN!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
TAP TA
HOW THE HECK DID YOU LOSE US?

EVERY-ONE! KI-CHAN!
OVER HERE

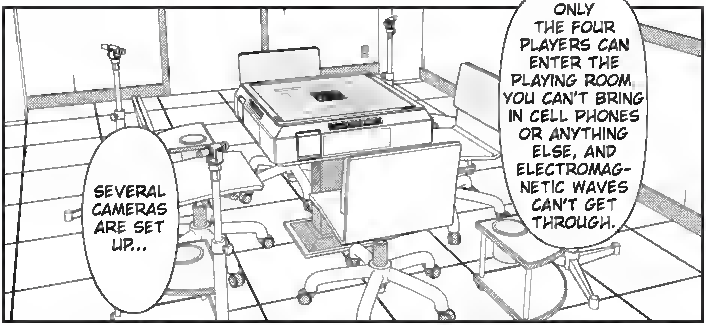
SFX: WOBBLE
THE INTER-VIEWERS FINALLY LET ME GO.
WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.. I THOUGHT WE MIGHT HAVE TO USE SUGA-KUN IN DRAG AS A SUB.
WHERE'S HARA-MURA-SAN?
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT!?
BUT THAT'S GREAT, HARA-MURA-SAN!
THERE ARE SO MANY STRONG-LOOKING PEOPLE HERE—!
I'M REALLY EXCITED!
I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY AGAINST THEM!!

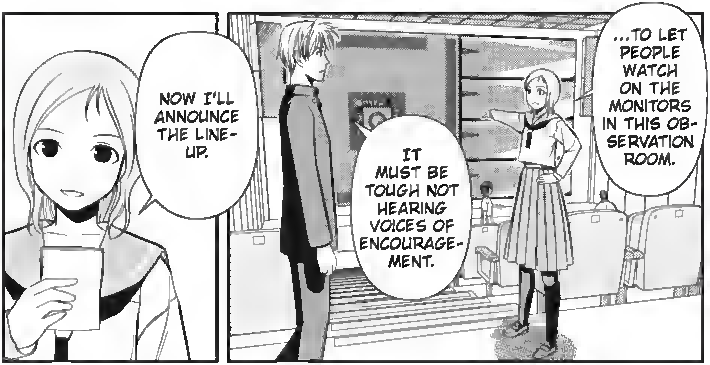
LET'S GET FIRED UP AND GO OUT THERE!
RIGHT!
THIS IS OUR FIRST STEP ON THE WAY TO WINNING AT NATIONALS.
LET'S DO OUR BEST!
THE TIME HAS COME TO SHOW EVERYONE...
...THE RESULTS OF OUR TRAINING CAMP!!
NOO
コク


THAT GIRL HAS CHANGED.

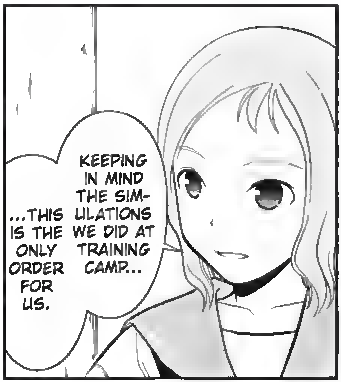
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S DYING TO PLAY MAHJONG.

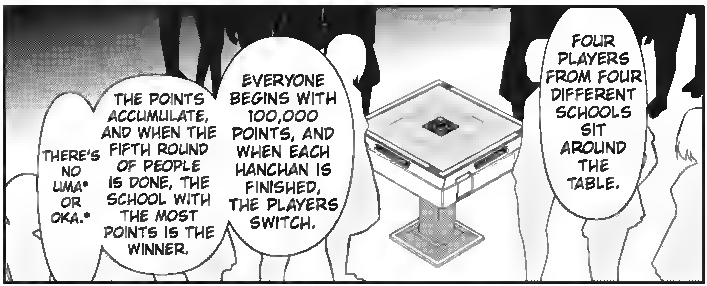
HAND 8: FIRST BATTLE


SEVERAL CAMERAS ARE SET UP...
ONLY THE FOUR PLAYERS CAN ENTER THE PLAYING ROOM. YOU CAN'T BRING IN CELL PHONES OR ANYTHING ELSE, AND ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES CAN'T GET THROUGH.


NOW I'LL ANNOUNCE THE LINE-UP.
IT MUST BE TOUGH NOT HEARING VOICES OF ENCOURAGEMENT.
...TO LET PEOPLE WATCH ON THE MONITORS IN THIS OBSERVATION ROOM.

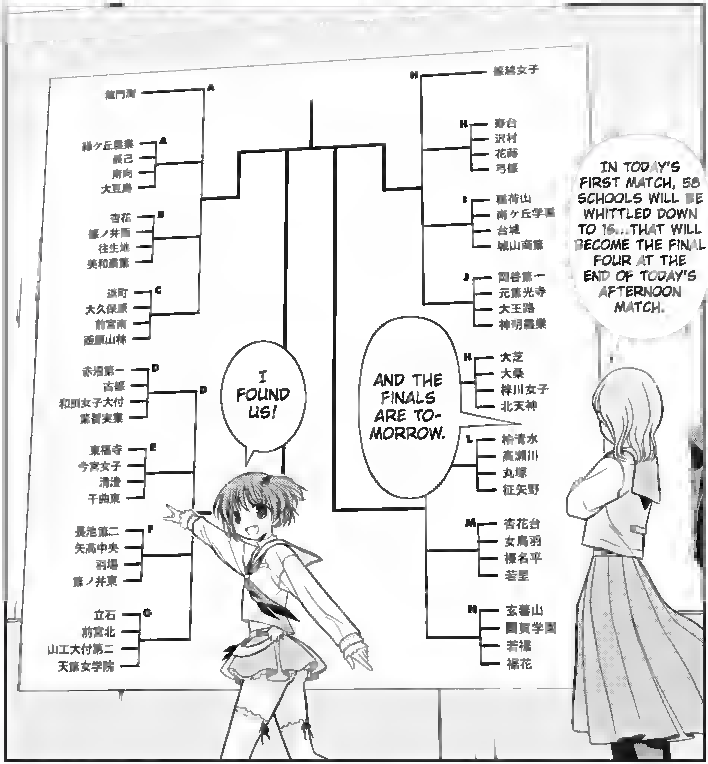
AND YOU TAKE US HOME, SAKI.
NODOKA, YOU'RE SECOND-TO-LAST.
I'M AFTER THAT.
NEXT, MAKO.
FIRST UP, YUUKI.
CHEW CHEW モグモグ

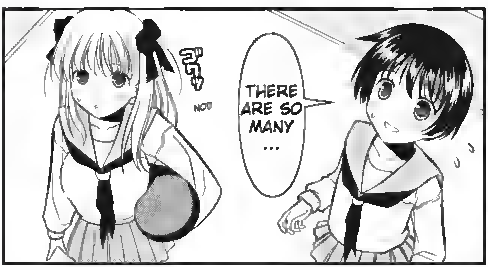


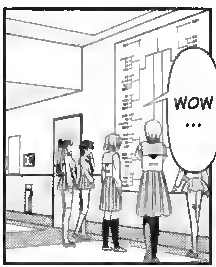

FOUR PLAYERS FROM FOUR DIFFERENT SCHOOLS SIT AROUND THE TABLE.
EVERYONE BEGINS WITH 100,000 POINTS, AND WHEN EACH HANCHAN IS FINISHED, THE PLAYERS SWITCH.
THE POINTS ACCUMULATE, AND WHEN THE FIFTH ROUND OF PEOPLE IS DONE, THE SCHOOL WITH THE MOST POINTS IS THE WINNER.
THERE'S NO UMA* OR OKA.*

UMA: POINTS RECEIVED AT THE END OF THE GAME BASED ON RANK
OKA: BONUS POINTS AWARDED TO THE WINNER AT THE END OF THE GAME

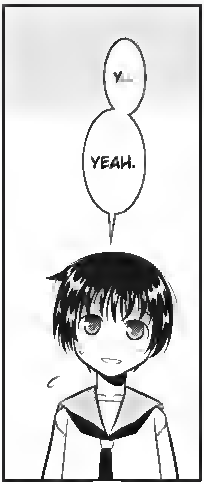
TOBI: WHEN THE GAME ENDS BECAUSE A PLAYER HAS RUN OUT OF POINTS


A
龍門淵
A
緑ヶ丘農業
飯己
南向
大豆島
B
杏花
堰ノ井西
往生迷
美和農業
C
道町
大久保原
前宮南
西原山林
D
赤塚第一
古都
和田女子大付
葉賀東業
D
E
東福寺
今宮女子
清澄
千曲東
F
長池第二
矢高中央
羽場
霞ノ井東
G
立石
前宮北
山工大付第二
天原女学院
H
雀綺女子
H
寿台
沢村
花師
弓都
I
稲荷山
南ヶ丘学園
台城
城山商業
J
岡谷第一
元恵光寺
大王路
神明農業
H
大芝
大桑
祥川女子
北天神
L
柏清水
高瀬川
丸塚
征矢野
M
杏花台
女鳥羽
福名平
若里
N
玄番山
開貝学園
若福
福花
I FOUND US!
AND THE FINALS ARE TO-MORROW.
IN TODAY'S FIRST MATCH, 56 SCHOOLS WILL BE WHITTLED DOWN TO 16...THAT WILL BECOME THE FINAL FOUR AT THE END OF TODAY'S AFTERNOON MATCH.


NOT
THERE ARE SO MANY ...

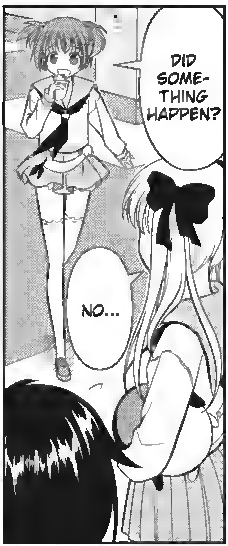

WOW ...

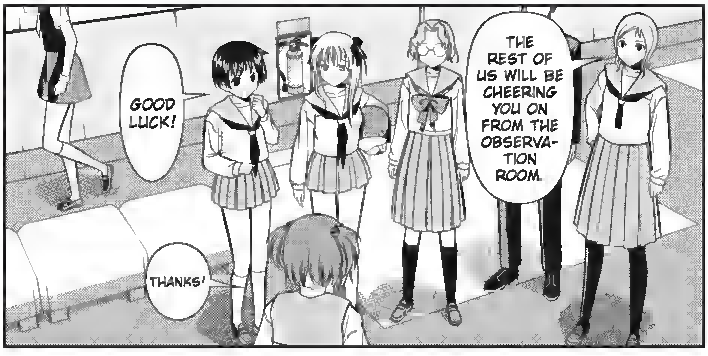
SCUFF
ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT EVEN 30% OF WHAT YOU FIND IN THE REALLY COMPETITIVE AREAS LIKE OSAKA.
A LOT MORE THAN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNA-MENT...
!
EASY WIN!
OUR FIRST ROUND OPPONENTS ARE WEAK— KIYOSUMI, TOFUKUJI, AND CHIKUMAHI-GASHI.
HARA-MURA-SAN.
RIDICULOUS! THEY JUST MAKE A FUSS OVER HER BECAUSE SHE'S GOT A BIG RACK.
GYA HA HA!
AH—I SAW HER TELL THAT REPORTER THEY WERE GONNA WIN AT NATIONALS ...
DOESN'T KIYOSUMI HAVE THAT HARA-MURA GIRL?


Y...
YEAH.

IT'S OKAY...
LET'S JUST DO OUR BEST IN THE FIRST MATCH...

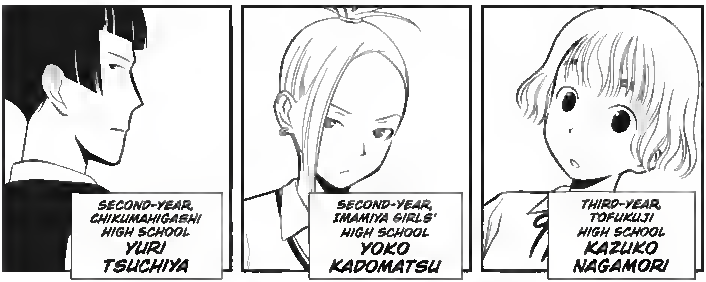
The first match is going to begin in ten minutes. The first player for each school should now go to their assigned playing room.
IT'S TIME FOR THE MAIN CHARACTER TO TAKE THE STAGE!
FLASH


DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
NO...


GOOD LUCK!
THANKS!
THE REST OF US WILL BE CHEERING YOU ON FROM THE OBSERVATION ROOM.

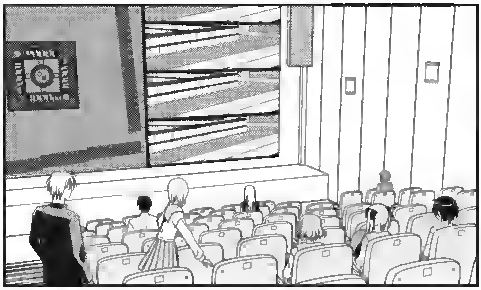
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!!
ビリ
FINISH

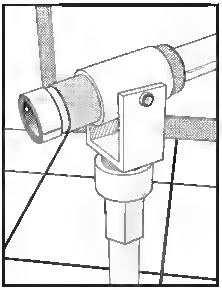
ガチャ
CHAK
Playing Room E

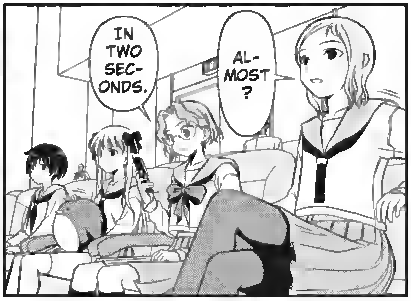

SECOND-YEAR,
CHIKUMAHIGASHI
HIGH SCHOOL
YURI
TSUCHIYA
SECOND-YEAR,
IMAMIYA GIRLS'
HIGH SCHOOL
YOKO
KADOMATSU
THIRD-YEAR,
TOFUKUJI
HIGH SCHOOL
KAZUKO
NAGAMORI

NICE
TO
MEET
YOU!
FIRST-YEAR,
KIYOSUMI
HIGH SCHOOL
YUUKI
KATAOKA

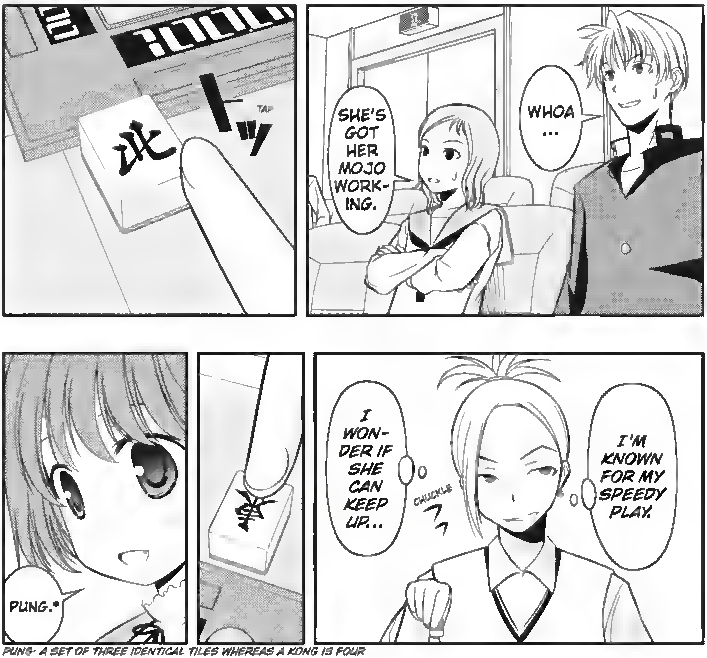
100,000
100,000
100,000
100,000



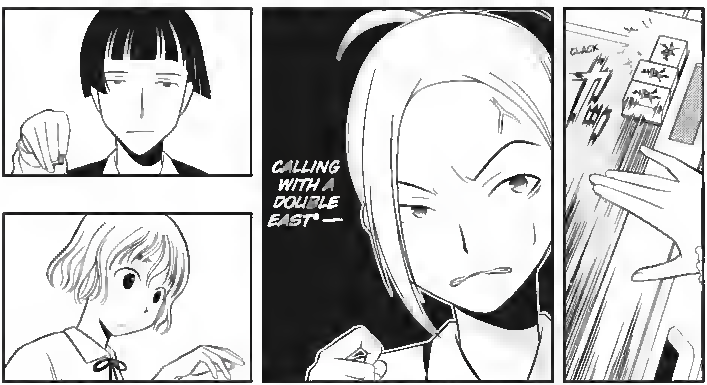



IN TWO SEC-ONDS.
AL-MOST ?

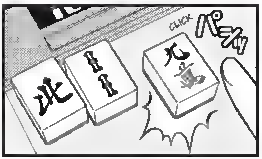
Let the first match begin!
PEEP
RATTLE
カラ
RATTLE
カラ
EAST HAND 1 DEALER: YUUKI
CHAK
チャッ

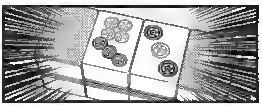


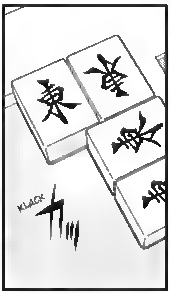
*PUNG: A SET OF THREE IDENTICAL TILES WHEREAS A KONG IS FOUR

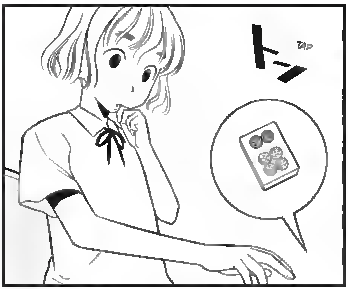


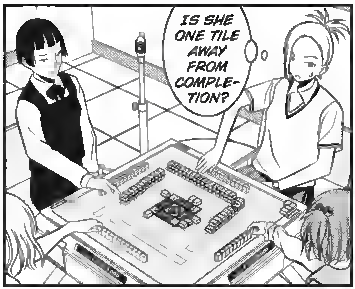
*DOUBLE EAST: PUNG (OR KONG) OF EAST TILES WHEN EAST IS BOTH THE ROUND WIND AND ONE'S SEAT WIND (YAKU)

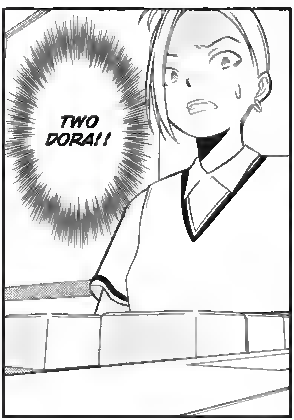


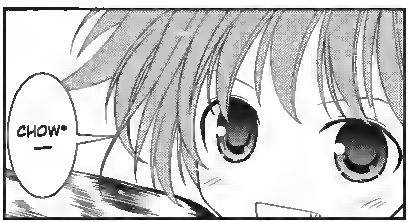




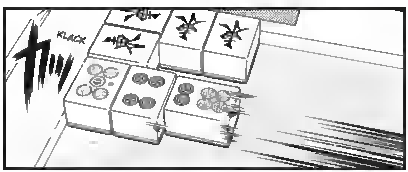


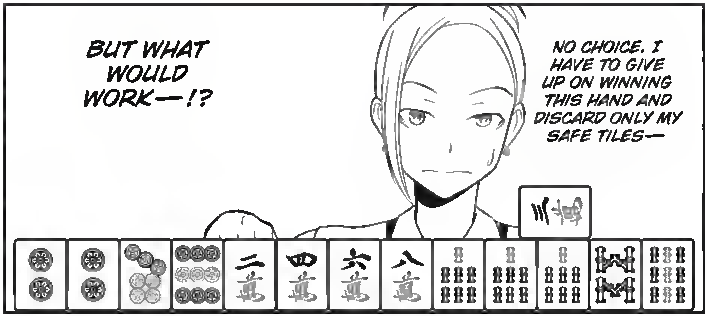




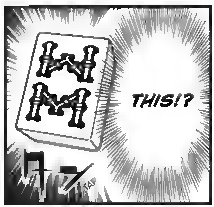


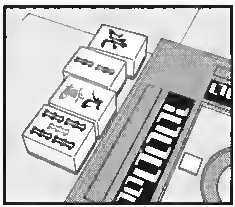
CHOW: THREE CONSECUTIVELY NUMBERED TILES IN THE SAME SUIT




BUT WHAT WOULD WORK—!?
NO CHOICE. I HAVE TO GIVE UP ON WINNING THIS HAND AND DISCARD ONLY MY SAFE TILES—

RON.


THIS!?



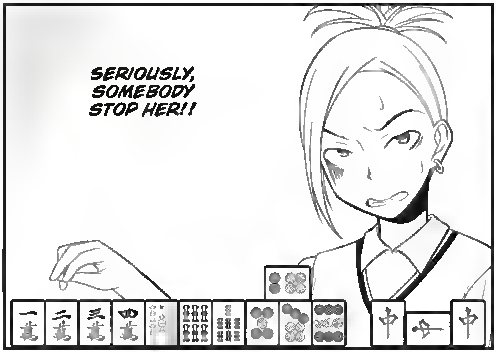
18,000!
+18,000
KLACK
カッ

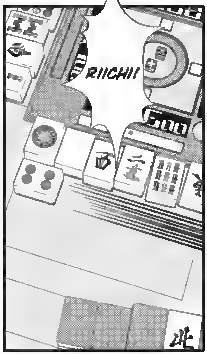
TSUMO! THAT'LL BE 2,100 FROM EVERY-ONE!
EAST HAND 1 BONUS HAND 1
+6,300

WAIT A...
-18,000

EAST HAND 1 BONUS HAND 3
にぱ〜
GRIN

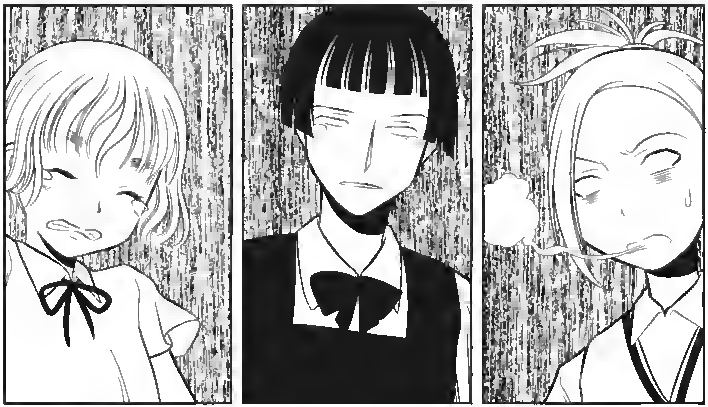
RON! 8,300!
EAST HAND 1 BONUS HAND 2
+8,300


SERIOUSLY, SOMEBODY STOP HER!!


RIICHI!

TAP
TWITCH
I SHOULD'VE GONE FOR IT THERE!!
WHAT AM I DOING!?
HERE IT COMES!
CLICK

+24,900
IP-PA-TSU TSU-MO!
AN ALL SIMPLE PINFU CON-SISTING OF A MIXED TRIPLE CHOW AND ONE DORA!
THAT'S 8,300 FROM EVERY-ONE!!
BOOM

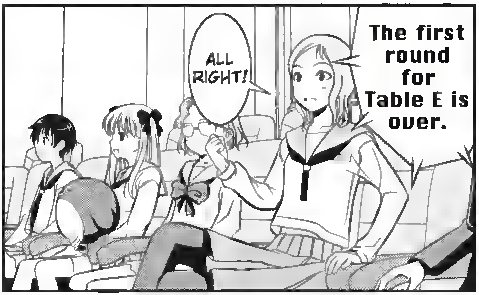


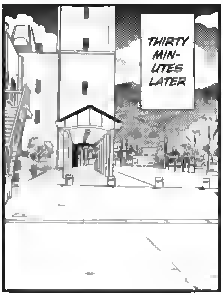
ALL RIGHT!
THAT'S EVIL...
SHE'S GOT THEM RIGHT WHERE SHE WANTS THEM.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER OPPONENTS.
OH MAN

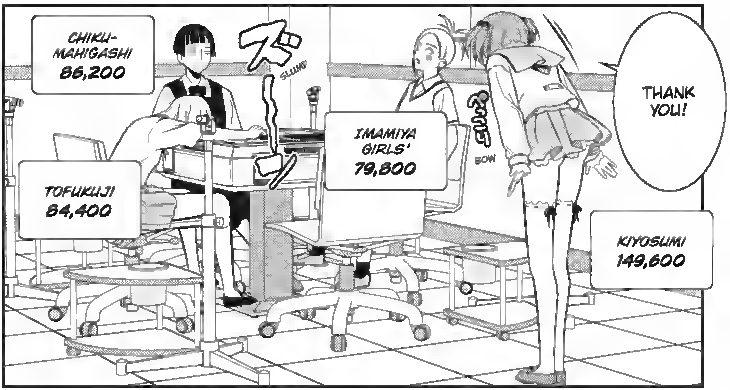
EAST HAND 1 BONUS HAND 4
CHIKUMAHIGASHI 81,300
IMAMIYA GIRLS' 71,600
TOFUKUJI 89,600
KIYOSUMI 157,500

I'M RUNNING OUT OF TACO POWER...
MMM...
イバ

R-RON! JUST ALL SIMPLES.
TAP

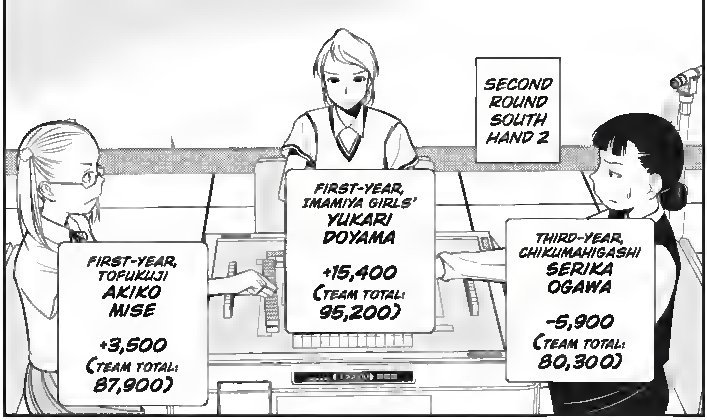

ALL RIGHT!
The first round for Table E is over.

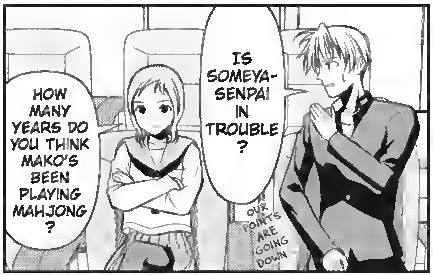

THIRTY MINUTES LATER

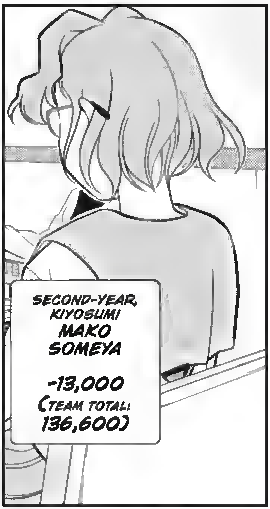

CHIKUMAHIGASHI 86,200
TOFUKUJI 84,400
IMAMIYA GIRLS' 79,800
KIYOSUMI 149,600
THANK YOU!
SLUMP
BOW

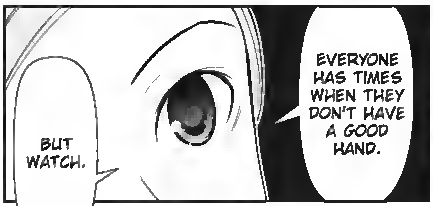
NOW THAT IT'S OVER, I REALIZE SHE WAS ONLY STRONG DURING THE EAST ROUND—
LA-LA! LA-LA!
SHE TOTALLY TOYED WITH US!!
GNASH
IF THE OTHER SCHOOLS FOLLOWED CONVENTIONAL WISDOM OF PUTTING YOUR STRONGEST PLAYERS FIRST, THEY SHOULD BE IN FOR TROUBLE.
I'M UP NEXT!
THERE'S NO NEED TO PLAY DEFENSE. KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING.
OF COURSE.
THAT WAS MY INTENTION. WELL...

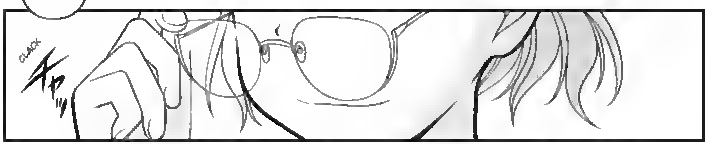
I'LL BE BACK!!
SWISH


SECOND ROUND SOUTH HAND 2
FIRST-YEAR, IMAMIYA GIRLS' YUKARI DOYAMA
+15,400
(TEAM TOTAL: 95,200)
FIRST-YEAR, TOFUKUJI AKIKO MISE
+3,500
(TEAM TOTAL: 87,900)
THIRD-YEAR, CHIKUMAHIGASHI SERIKA OGAWA
-5,900
(TEAM TOTAL: 80,300)


HOW MANY YEARS DO YOU THINK MAKO'S BEEN PLAYING MAHJONG?
IS SOMEYA-SENPAI IN TROUBLE?
OUR POINTS ARE GOING DOWN


SECOND-YEAR, KIYOSUMI MAKO SOMEYA
-13,000
(TEAM TOTAL: 136,600)


EVERYONE HAS TIMES WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE A GOOD HAND.
BUT WATCH.


CLACK

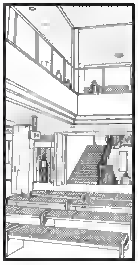
HAND 9: DESCENT

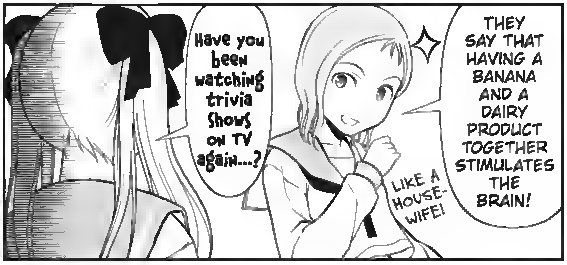
CRACKLE
16,000!
RON!
DUDE ...
3,900!
RON!
TSUMO! 3,000/ 6,000!!
SHFF
GOOD GAME!
IMAMIYA GIRLS'
+8,500
(TEAM TOTAL: 88,300)
TOFUKUJI
-18,500
(TEAM TOTAL: 65,900)
CHIKUMAHIGASHI
-8,900
(TEAM TOTAL: 77,300)
KIYOSUMI
+18,900
(TEAM TOTAL: 168,500)
THE SECOND ROUND FOR TABLE E IS OVER.
SOON

GOOD LUCK.
THANKS

GUESS I'M UP.
OKAY...
THIRD ROUND —
THIRD-YEAR, KIYOSUMI
HISA TAKEI

NODOKA AND SAKI, WHY DON'T YOU GET SOMETHING TO EAT AT THE CAFÉ UPSTAIRS?
HUH...? WHY...?

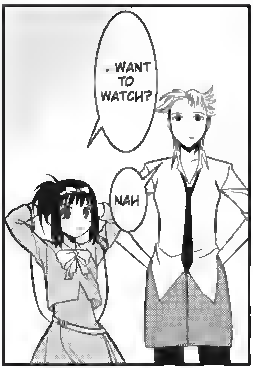



Have you been watching trivia shows on TV again...?
LIKE A HOUSE-WIFE!
THEY SAY THAT HAVING A BANANA AND A DAIRY PRODUCT TOGETHER STIMULATES THE BRAIN!

I'VE NEVER REGRETTED LEAVING THINGS TO HER.
IT'S OKAY.
SHOULDN'T WE BE CHEERING THE CAPTAIN ON?
THAT GIRL...
THE ONE FROM KIYOSUMI...!
MM?
THAT DUMBASS, TOKA—WHERE DID SHE WANDER OFF TO?
HEY...
CLACK CLACK

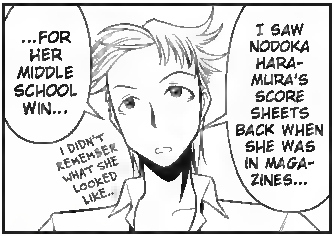
THEY'RE
HEY, YOU!
!
HUH...? I'M...
I'M NODOKA HARA-MURA.
...NO-DOKA HARA-MURA?
ARE YOU...
RYU-MON-BUCHI HIGH SCHOOL —!!
THAT'S YOU!?
THAT'S RIGHT.

THEN...
.....
WHY IS TOKA SO FOCUSED ON THIS ONE!?
"THIS ONE" ISN'T A NICE WAY TO PUT IT!
.....
ピトッ
PITCH
...WHO ARE YOU!?
SOUNDS LIKE THE CAPTAIN IS DONE
THAT WAS FAST ...
GASP
The third round for Table E is over!
CLENCH
ギュッ


I WANT TO WATCH?
NAH

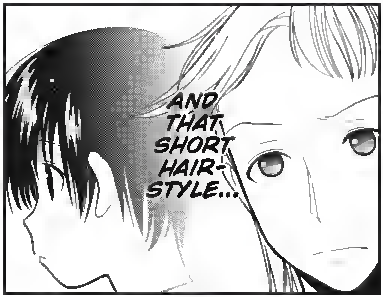
I'M UP NEXT!
EXCUSE US!
TAP
9
11

...BUT SHE MAKES A LOT OF MISTAKES PLAYING DIGITALLY ...
...SO I THOUGHT SHE SUCKED, TO BE HONEST.


I SAW NODOKA HARAMURA'S SCORE SHEETS BACK WHEN SHE WAS IN MAGAZINES...
...FOR HER MIDDLE SCHOOL WIN...
I DIDN'T REMEMBER WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE...

"NODOCCHI"?
THE "NODOCCHI" THAT'S BEEN CALLED A LEGEND IN THE WORLD OF ONLINE MAHJONG?
SOME PEOPLE EVEN THINK IT'S A PROGRAM SET UP BY THE PEOPLE WHO RUN THE SITE

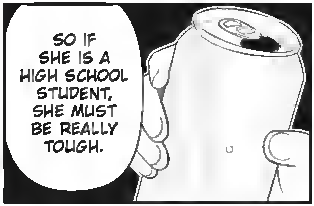
EXCEPT...
NODOKA HARAMURA MAY BE "NODOCCHI"!
...IS WHAT TOKA SAID.

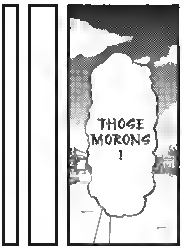

AND THAT SHORT HAIR-STYLE...

"NODOCCHI" DOESN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES.
UNLIKE NODOKA HARA-MURA.
THE NAMES ARE SIMILAR THOUGH.

EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, AGAINST THE FIVE OF US...
...SHE WOULD LOSE.

NODOCCHI IS EVEN STRONGER THAN SOME WEIRD PROS.


SO IF SHE IS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, SHE MUST BE REALLY TOUGH.


THOSE MORONS!

BUT KOROMO AND TOKA AREN'T HERE RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT!!

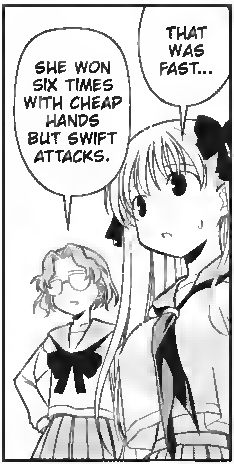
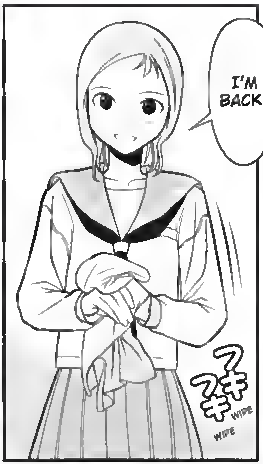
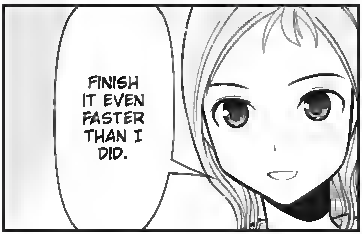
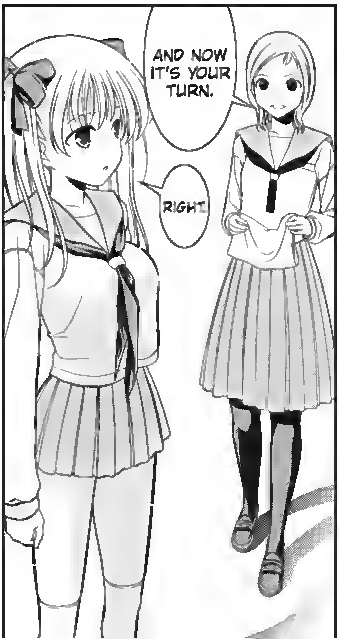


TABLE E	
KIYOSUMI	+14500
183000	
IMAMIYA GIRLS'	−700
87600	
CHIKUMAHIGASHI	−11500
65800	
TOFUKUJI	−2300
63600	

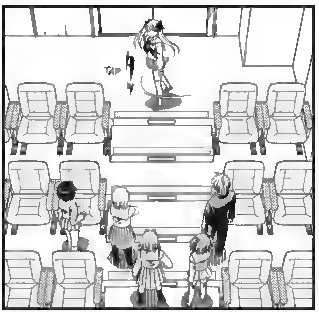






GOOD LUCK, HARA-MURA-SAN!
THANKS.

SQUEEZE
ギュ…

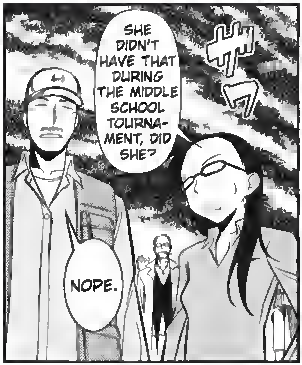

TAP

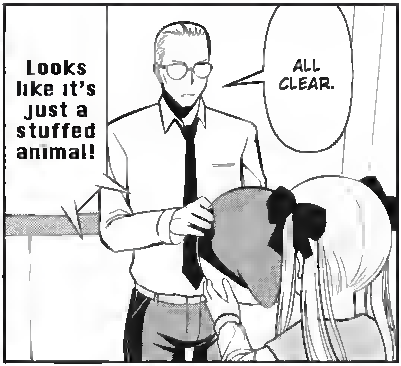
SEE YOU SOON!

CLUSTER
CLUSTER
KIYOSUMI... I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE.
WHY IS HARAMURA GOING THERE?
BUZZ
BUZZ
NODOKA HARAMURA IS PLAYING.
WHERE?
TABLE E IN FIVE MINUTES.
HO HO HO!
CHATTER
CHATTER
WOW ...
THE ROOM'S SUDDENLY FILLING UP.
GOOD THING I GOT HERE EARLY!!
OOOH!!
OOOH!!
TOKA RYUMONBUCHI IN DISGUISE (WITH SUNGLASSES ONLY)

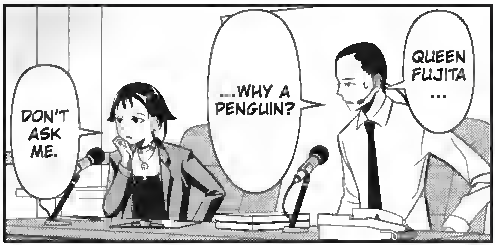
BUT DOES YOUR ABILITY MEA-SURE UP?
.....
I WON'T STAND FOR ANYONE GETTING MORE ATTENTION THAN ME!
ANYWAY, WHY IS SHE SO POPU-LAR!?
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
ギギギ
DUNNN
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT!!
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI
NODOKA HARAMURA
183,000

FIRST-YEAR, CHIKUMAHIGASHI
MEGUMI KAMIGAKI
65,800
THIRD-YEAR, IMAMIYA GIRLS'
MAI TANAKA
87,600
SECOND-YEAR, TOFUKUJI
SEMI KAWACHICHI
63,600
Now what is that stuffed animal ...?
BROAD-CASTING ROOM
IT SEEMS A JUDGE IS CHECKING IT OUT...
GOOD TO MEET YOU.

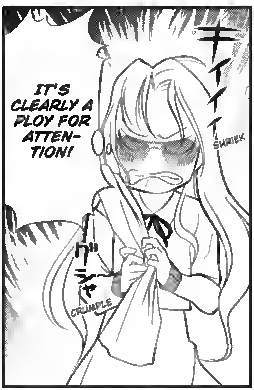

SHE DIDN'T HAVE THAT DURING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT, DID SHE?
NOPE.


ALL CLEAR.
Looks like it's just a stuffed animal!

MAYBE A SUGGESTION FROM HISA?


DON'T ASK ME.
...WHY A PENGUIN?
QUEEN FUJITA ...

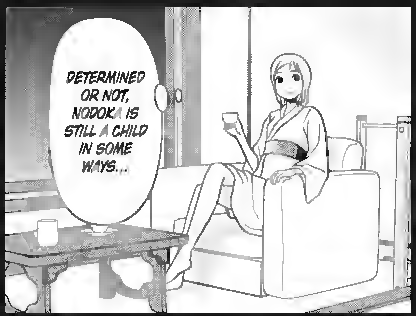
DO YOUR BEST!
REALLY?
THAT'S HILARIOUS!
SNICKER
SNICKER
SNICKER

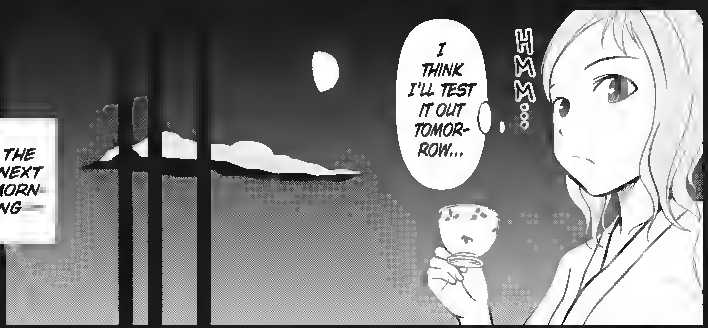

IT'S CLEARLY A PLOY FOR ATTENTION!
SHRIEK
CRUMPLE

THE FIRST NIGHT OF TRAINING CAMP—
THAT PENGUIN AGAIN NODO-CHAN—?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'VE BEEN BRINGING IT TO THE CLUB TOO.
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT IT!
HUH!?
NO...
SIGH
I CAN'T.
SQUEEZE

SHE'S A LITTLE KID!
ギャハハ
BAM
HOW OLD ARE YOU!?
GYA-HA-HA!
PFFT
BAM
BAM

.....
SIP
ズズ
SIP


DETERMINED OR NOT, NODOKA IS STILL A CHILD IN SOME WAYS...


THE NEXT MORNING—
I THINK I'LL TEST IT OUT TOMORROW...
ううう...

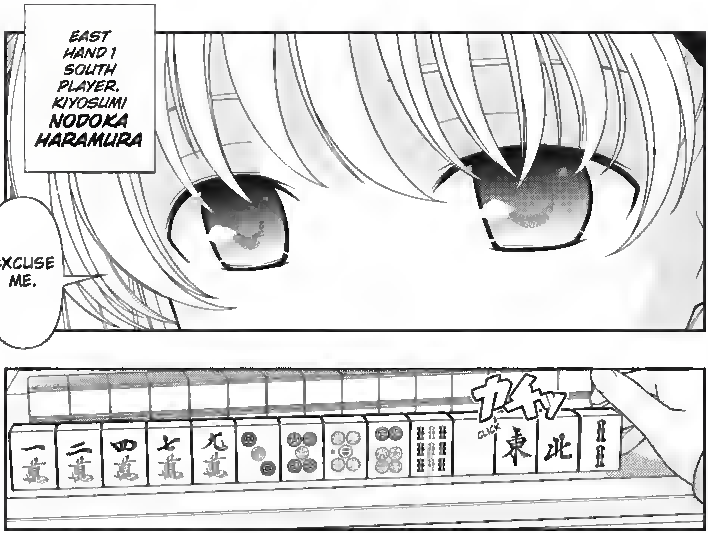
PLAY WHILE YOU'RE HUGGING THE PENGUIN, NODOKA
WHAT ...!?
I'LL HUG A TACO.
YOU'RE EXTREMELY STRONG WHEN PLAYING INTERNET MAHJONG AT HOME.
IF HUGGING THE PENGUIN MAKES YOU ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP LIKE AT HOME...
WH-WHY?
BUT IT'S SO EMBARRASSING THAT I CAN'T RELAX...
GET USED TO IT BY THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER!
...THEN MAYBE HUGGING IT WILL ALSO LET YOU PLAY LIKE YOU'RE AT HOME.

IS SHE NUTS!?
GONG
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN!
YOU DON'T MEAN...
...TAKE THIS TO THE TOURNA-MENT?
CHATTER
WELL...
CHATTER
.....
BUT...
...THE NUMBER OF NODOKA'S EASY MISTAKES DROPPED DRASTICALLY ONCE SHE BROUGHT IN THE PENGUIN.
...HALF OF IT IS TO DRAW ATTENTION.
DRAW ATTEN-TION!?
RIGHT NOW, "NODOCCHI," DUBBED THE STRONGEST PLAYER ON THE NET...

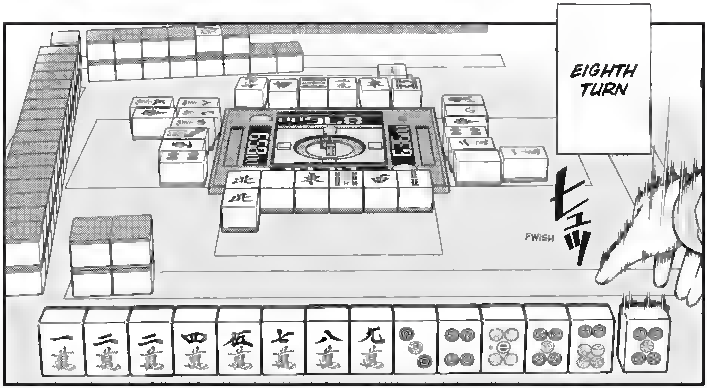
...HAS DESCENDED ...
...TO OUR WORLD !!

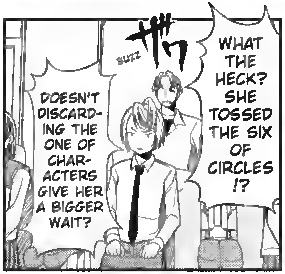
And so it be-gins!
Table E's penul-timate round !!

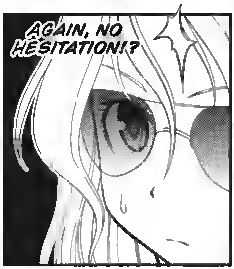
HAND 10: THE FASTEST

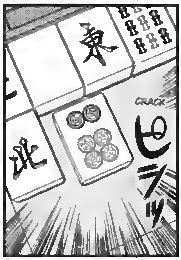

EAST HAND 1 SOUTH PLAYER. KIYOSUMI NODOKA HARAMURA
EXCUSE ME.
CLICK
CLICK
SHE'S NOT SURE ON HER FIRST TURN?
THERE'S NOTHING TO THINK ABOUT IT. IT'S EITHER NORTH WIND OR THE NINE OF BAMBOOS ...
BUZZ
BUZZ
WISH THEY'D SHUT UP BACK THERE!
LIKE FOUR OR FIVE SECONDS...
"NODOCCHI" ALWAYS TAKES A LITTLE WHILE TO THINK AT FIRST.

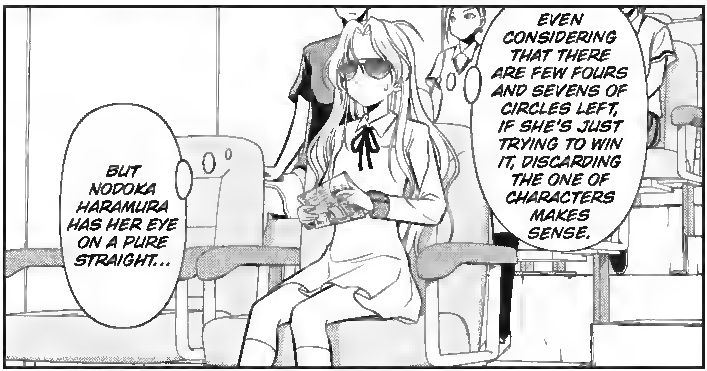
!?
FWISH
ヒュッ
SEC-
OND
TURN
CLICK
CRACK
SHE'S GOT AN ANSWER FOR EVERY PATTERN!
WHAT'S COMING, WHAT TO DISCARD ...
BY THE SECOND TURN, WHILE HER OPPONENTS ARE MAKING THEIR MOVES, SHE'S CONSIDER-ING EVERY-THING.
I'LL PLAY LIKE I ALWAYS DO AND COUNT ON OUR FINAL PLAYER.
I'LL KNOCK YOU FOR A LOOP WITH A YAKU-MAN!
IS SHE TRYING TO THROW ME OFF MY PACE BY PLAYING QUICKLY?









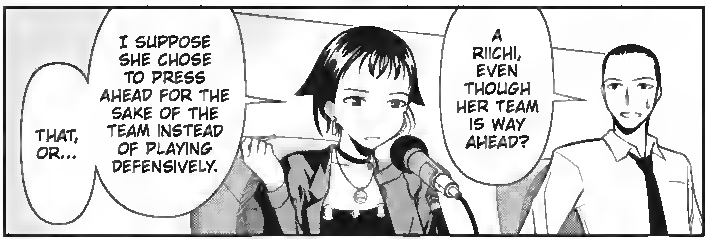

EVEN CONSIDERING THAT THERE ARE FEW FOURS AND SEVENS OF CIRCLES LEFT, IF SHE'S JUST TRYING TO WIN IT, DISCARDING THE ONE OF CHARACTERS MAKES SENSE.
BUT NODOKA HARAMURA HAS HER EYE ON A PURE STRAIGHT...

PURE STRAIGHT: WINNING HAND CONTAINING NINE CONSECUTIVE TILES OF THE SAME SUIT

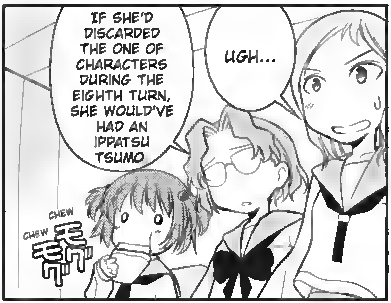
QUEEN FUJITA, WHY DID SHE JUST DISCARD THE SIX OF CIRCLES?
GETTING 1,000 YEN ONE OUT OF TWO TIMES OR GETTING 2,000 YEN ONE OUT OF THREE TIMES...
IF YOU COULD DO IT OVER AND OVER, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
.....? ...IT'S MORE EFFICIENT WITH THE 2,000 YEN, RIGHT?
IT'S SIMILAR HERE.
SHE MADE THAT DECISION IN A SPLIT-SECOND.
THERE'S A HUGE GAP BETWEEN THE PERSON WHO ONLY THINKS ABOUT WINNING PERCENTAGES AND THE PERSON WHO EVEN THINKS ABOUT EXPECTED VALUES.
NORMALLY, NODOKA WOULD NEVER AIM FOR A PURE STRAIGHT THOUGH.
SO SHE'S LOOKING AT THE OTHER PLAYERS' DISCARDS AND THINKING THE THREE OF CHARACTERS IS STILL OUT THERE?

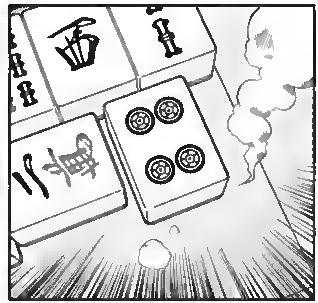
TENTH TURN
THERE IT IS.
CLACK
カッ

RIICHI!
Nodoka Haramura with a preemptive riichi!!


A RIICHI, EVEN THOUGH HER TEAM IS WAY AHEAD?
I SUPPOSE SHE CHOSE TO PRESS AHEAD FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM INSTEAD OF PLAYING DEFENSIVELY.
THAT, OR...

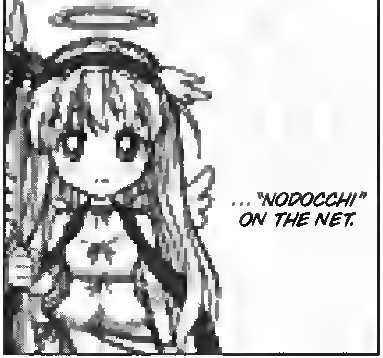
FWISH
...SHE'S JUST SHOWBOATING, WITH NO REGARD FOR THE TEAM.

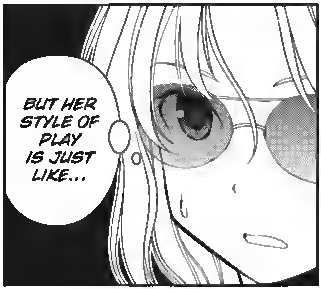

IF SHE'D DISCARDED THE ONE OF CHARACTERS DURING THE EIGHTH TURN, SHE WOULD'VE HAD AN IPPATSU TSUMO.
UGH...
CHEW
CHEW

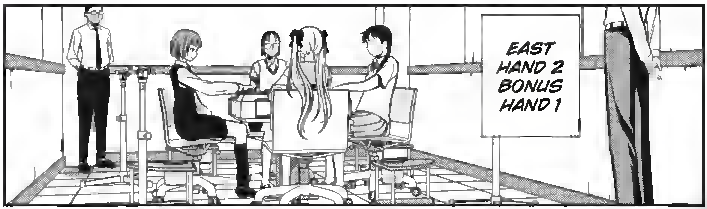


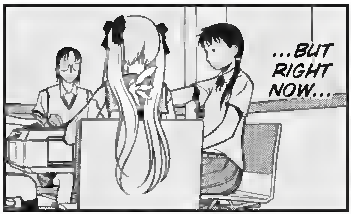
NODOKA HARA-MURA REALLY ISN'T ALL THAT...
YEAH, I KNOW ...
ALL RIGHT!
SHE ISN'T REALLY STANDING OUT THAT MUCH!

END OF ROUND: NO WINNERS
TEN-PAI.
NO TEN-PAI.
TEN-PAI.
NO TEN-PAI.

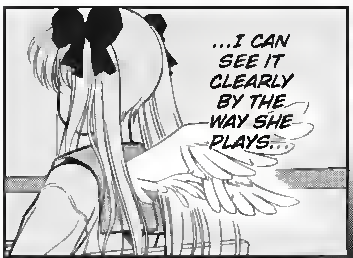

...“NODOCCHI” ON THE NET.


BUT HER STYLE OF PLAY IS JUST LIKE...

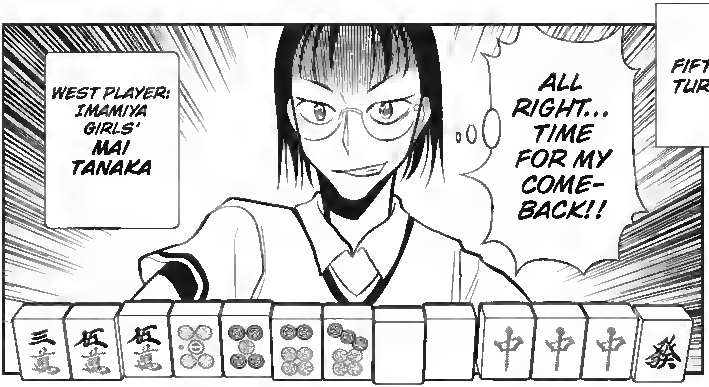

EAST HAND 2 BONUS HAND 1

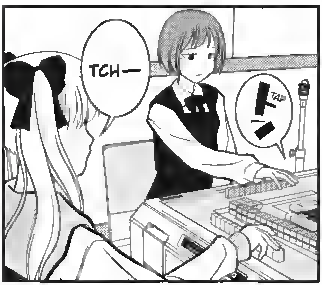

...BUT RIGHT NOW...

I COULD ALSO SEE GLIMPSES OF IT IN NODOKA HARAMURA'S SCORE SHEETS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL...

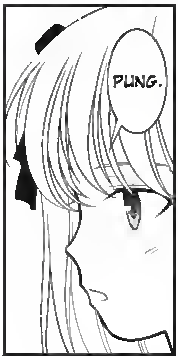

...I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY BY THE WAY SHE PLAYS...

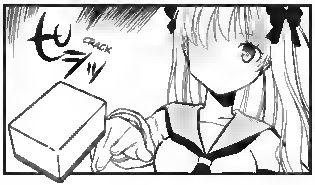
THE SHADOW OF "NODO-CCHI"...!



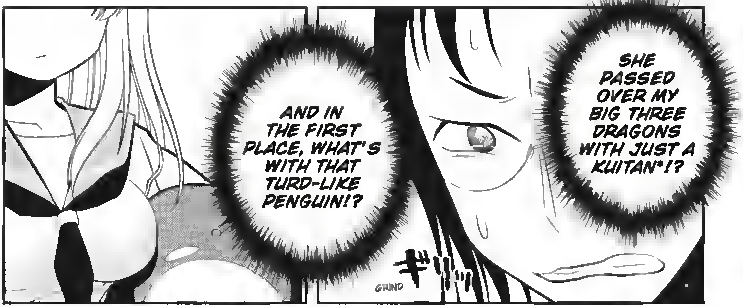


BIG THREE DRAGONS: WINNING HAND WITH PUNGS OR KONGS OF EACH OF THE THREE TYPES OF DRAGON TILES

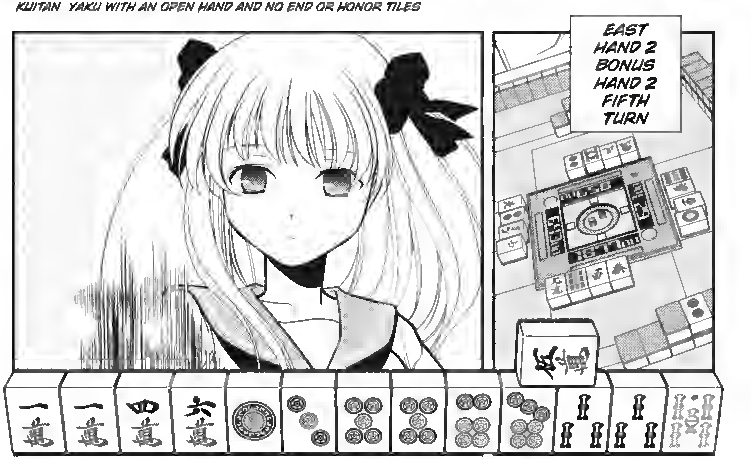


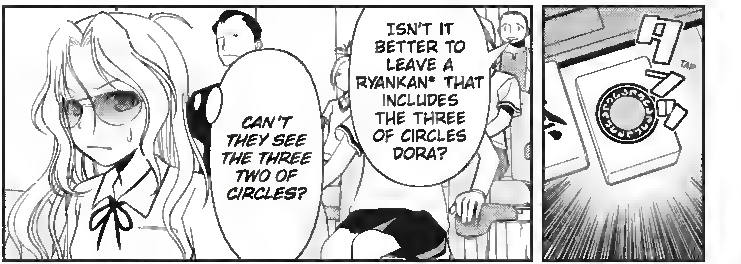


COME ON!!
TAP
GOTCHA —!!
RON.
ALL SIMPLES, ONE DORA. 2,900 BECOMES 3,200.
DAMN YOU —!!
RATTLE
TAP



KUITAN: YAKU WITH AN OPEN HAND AND NO END OR HONOR TILES





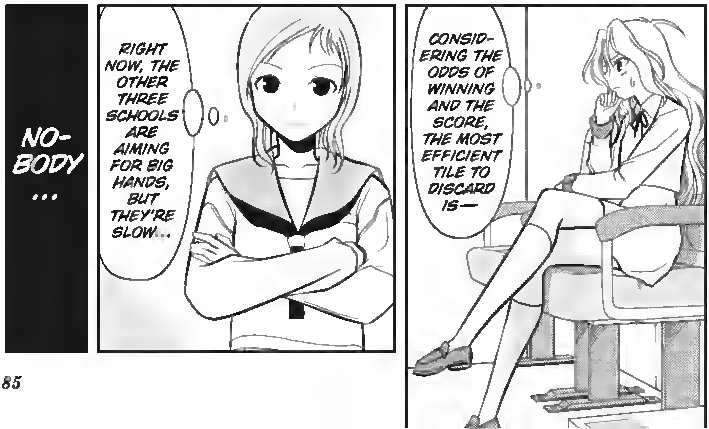
RYANKAN: A WAIT WITH THREE TILES IN A SUIT

CLICK
ELEVENTH TURN—
RON.
RATTLE
パラ
!
TRIPLE PUNG WITH 2 DORA.
12,000 BECOMES 12,600!

MAYBE KIYOSUMI...
BUT DIDN'T THEY ALREADY HAVE A BIG LEAD BEFORE NODOKA HARAMURA GOT HERE?
IT'S OVER FOR CHIKUMAHI-GASHI.
SNICKER
クク
SNICKER
...IS A SCHOOL TO BE RECKONED WITH?
NODOKA HARA-MURA —!
I'M CONVINCED BEYOND A DOUBT—!!
FWISH

TSUMO.
1,300 FROM EVERYONE.
FLASH
カッ

THAT WAS FAST!!


NO-BODY...
RIGHT NOW, THE OTHER THREE SCHOOLS ARE AIMING FOR BIG HANDS, BUT THEY'RE SLOW...
CONSID-ERING THE ODDS OF WINNING AND THE SCORE, THE MOST EFFICIENT TILE TO DISCARD IS—

NOBODY CAN KEEP UP WITH THAT SPEED —!!

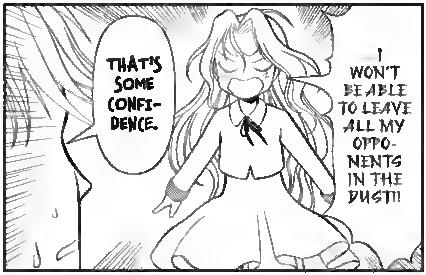
TOFUKUJI
-16,800
(TEAM TOTAL:
46,800)
SECOND TO LAST ROUND COMPLETE.
IMAMIYA GIRLS'
+12,700
(TEAM TOTAL:
100,300)
CHIKUMAHIGASHI
-21,000
(TEAM TOTAL:
44,800)
KIYOSUMI
+25,100
(TEAM TOTAL:
208,100)
THANK YOU.
BOOM

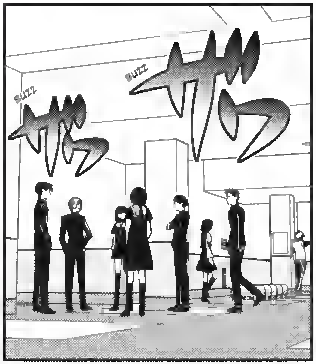
ﾐｼｼ…
QUEEN FUJITA, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE MATCH WE JUST SAW?
ｿﾛ
CROWD
ｿﾛ
LET'S GET SOMETHIN' TO EAT.
MAN, KIYOSUMI IS JUST CHARGING THROUGH THE FIRST ROUND.
I WONDER WHAT BROUGHT THAT ABOUT.
SHE'S ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN BEFORE.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS SURPRISED.
!
EVERY-ONE! EVERY-ONE!
MAYBE THE PENGUIN...
HA HA HA!
YEAH RIGHT!

WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN!?
TOKA!
WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY HERE!!
EMERGENCY!
DASH
DASH
NODOKA HARAMURA IS DEFINITELY "NODOCCHI"!!
ARE YOU STILL ON THAT KICK?
HMPH...
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

SHE'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON THAN HER SCORE SHEETS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL—!
HER TACTICS WERE 99% "NODOCCHI"!
THAT MEANS... THAT MEANS...

I SEE! NODOKA HARAMURA IS PLAYING SECOND TO LAST, SO YOU'D BE AGAINST HER, TOKA.


THAT'S SOME CONFI-DENCE.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE ALL MY OPPO-NENTS IN THE DUST!!


BUZZ
BUZZ

ASSUMING KIYOSUMI MAKES IT TO THE FINALS.
THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE MAHJONG IDOL, AND I'LL SHOW THEM ALL WHO IT IS!

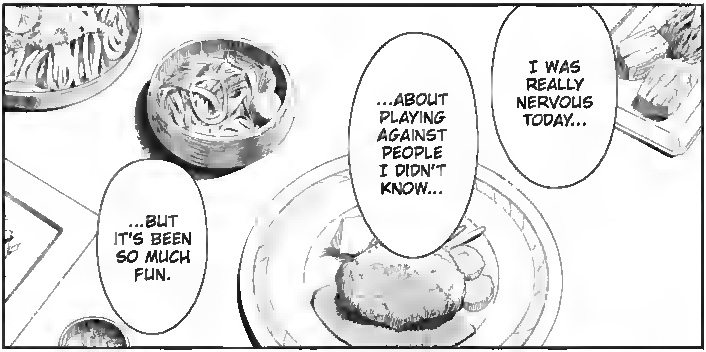
KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL, DUH!
NODOKA HARAMURA? I JUST SAW HER.
HARAMURA AGAIN!
GLARE
BUZZ
BUZZ
HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT?
THAT?
BUZZ
BUZZ
!?
THE LAST PLAYER?
NO! THE ONE AFTER HARAMURA. THE FIFTH MAN—
THE FIFTH MAN!?
SHE'S TOTALLY OFF THE CHAIN!
SHE ENDED THE MATCH BY BLOWING TOFUKUJI OUTTA THE WATER!!

KIYOSUMI'S FIFTH PLAYER—
DON'T TELL ME...

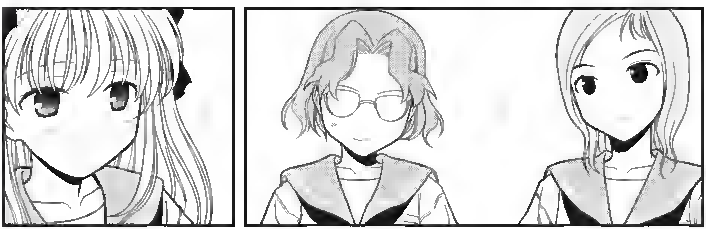
HAND 11: TRADITION

LUNCH BREAK
ALL RIGHT!
TO CHARGING THROUGH THE FIRST ROUND!!
BOOM
ガヤ
BUZZ
ガヤ
BUZZ
CHEERS!
GOOD EFFORT!
BUT SAKI-CHAN AMAZES ME.

BLOWING TOFUKUJI AWAY AND ENDING THE MATCH LIKE THAT...!!
TH-THAT WAS, YOU KNOW..
...BECAUSE HARAMURA-SAN HAD ALREADY SHAVED OFF THEIR SCORE BY SO MUCH.
TOFUKUJI HAD 46,800 POINTS AT THE END OF MY ROUND...
AH!
CHUCKLE


I WAS REALLY NERVOUS TODAY...
...ABOUT PLAYING AGAINST PEOPLE I DIDN'T KNOW...
...BUT IT'S BEEN SO MUCH FUN.

I WANT TO...
...PLAY AGAINST EVEN STRONGER PEOPLE!!



HI.
CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING TO THE SECOND ROUND.
QUEEN FUJITA!
HEY, ISN'T THAT YASUKO FUJITA!?
OH!
IT IS HER...
SHE'S TALKING TO...
...KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL!?
THE WOMAN WHO ATE KATSU DON..
I'LL BEAT HER SOMEDAY

YOU TWO...
MMM...?
IS IT OKAY FOR A CELEBRITY TO BE CHEWING THE FAT WITH US?
YOU'RE TOO DIFFERENT FROM THE GIRLS I PLAYED AT THE MAHJONG PARLOR...I'D SWEAR YOU WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE!
WHAT KIND OF MAGIC DID YOU USE IN THE SPAN OF TEN DAYS?
LET'S SEE...
MAYBE GETTING TAKEN DOWN A PEG BY A CERTAIN SOMEONE WAS AN EFFECTIVE CATALYST?
AND LIKE THEY SAY, IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN A PERSON FOR THREE DAYS, TAKE A GOOD LOOK NEXT TIME BECAUSE THEY MAY HAVE CHANGED.

...EVEN IF YOU WIN THIS AFTERNOON'S SECOND ROUND AND MAKE IT TO THE FINALS, YOU'LL PLAY RYUMONBUCHI AND KAZEKOSHI
AMAE IS A STRONG PLAYER. ..AND KAZEKOSHI HAS ASSEMBLED THEIR BEST TEAM EVER THIS YEAR
I DOUBT YOU'LL GET FAR PLAYING LIKE YOU DID IN THE FIRST MATCH.
.....
BUT...
ARE THOSE TWO SCHOOLS ...
!
RATTLE
ガクッ
...REALLY THAT TOUGH !?
THIS GIRL .....
.....
EXCITED
EXCITED

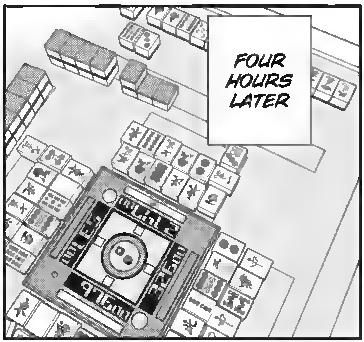
PING
ポーン
ALL RIGHT.
RATTLE
ガタッ
MM!
The second round will begin momentarily. Will the first player for each school please—
YES!!
SHALL WE GO!?
RUSTLE
ザッ
DASH
ダッ
EXCUSE ME.
BOW
ぺこ

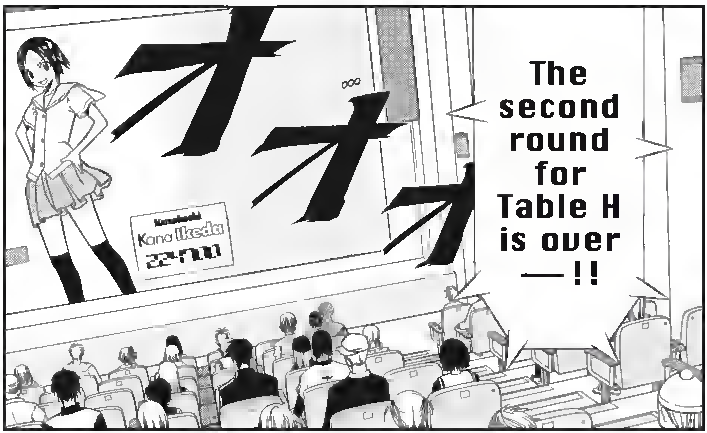
...MAY UNDERGO A METAMORPHOSIS.
THAT GIRL...
IT'S JUST...
...TOO BAD SHE'S PLAYING LAST.
...KOROMO AMAE MAY VERY WELL CRUSH HER!!
EVEN IF THEY DO GET TO THE FINALS ...

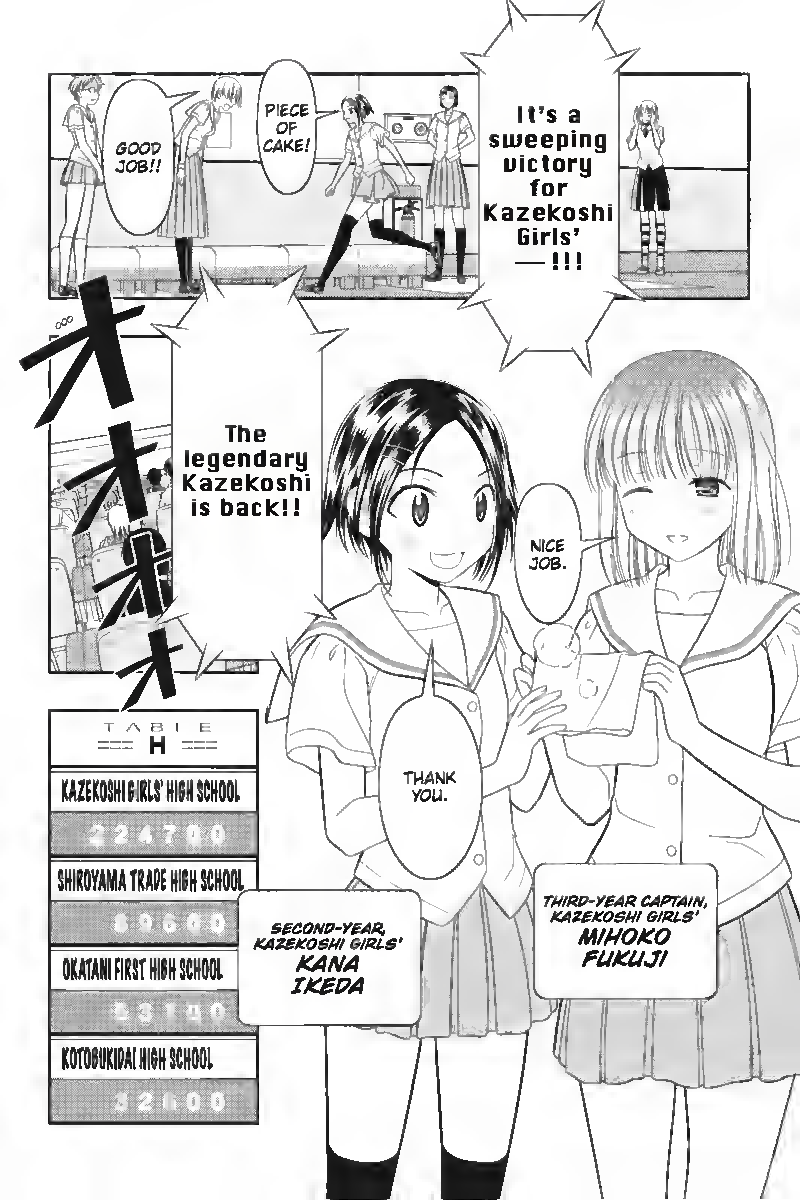
NOBODY WILL WATCH OUR MATCH THIS AFTERNOON.
WHAT THE ?
IT'S EMPTY...
FROM THE SECOND ROUND ON, MOST PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN THE TWO SEEDED SCHOOLS...
THEY WANT TO SEE THE MATCHES FOR RYUMON-BUCHI AND KAZE-KOSHI.

...AND THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER BECAME EVEN MORE EXCITING.
AT LAST, THE SEEDED SCHOOLS TOOK PART AS WELL...

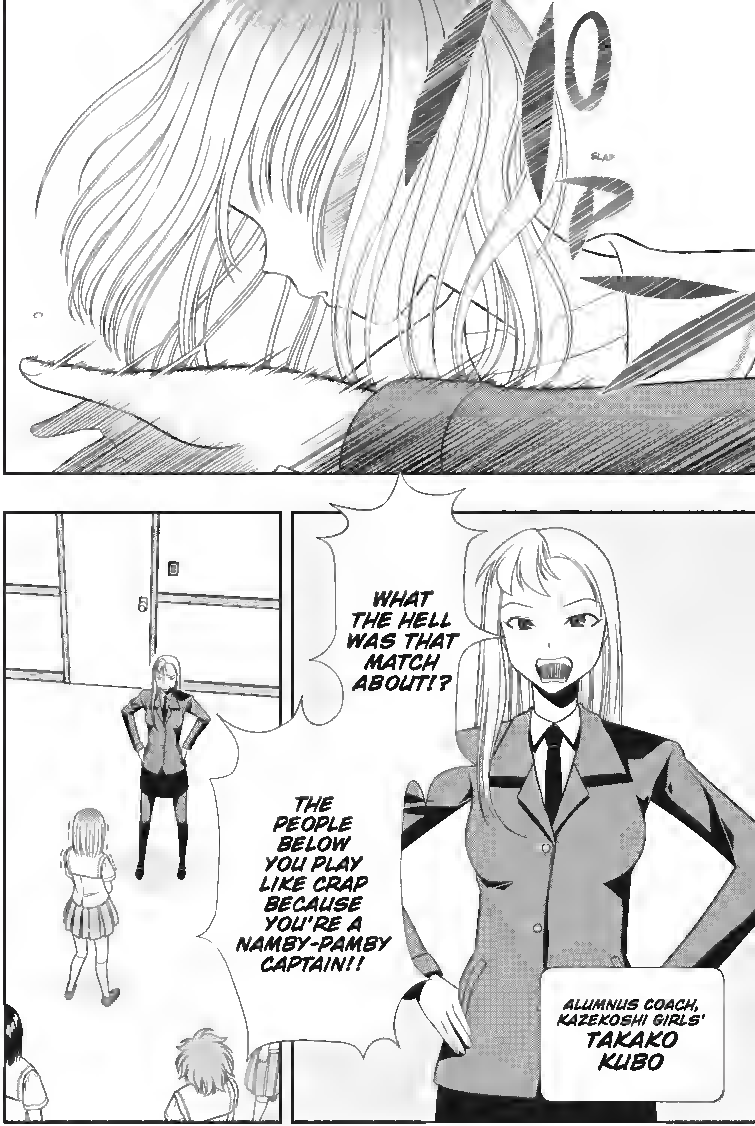
I'M QUIT-TING MAH-JONG ...!!
PAEH

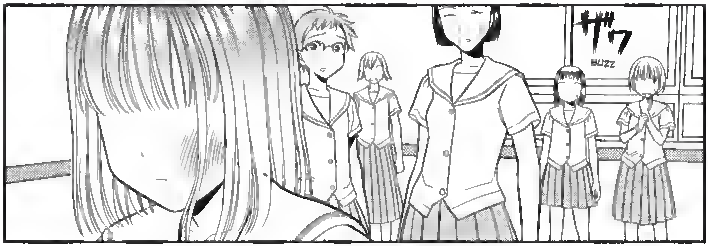

FOUR HOURS LATER

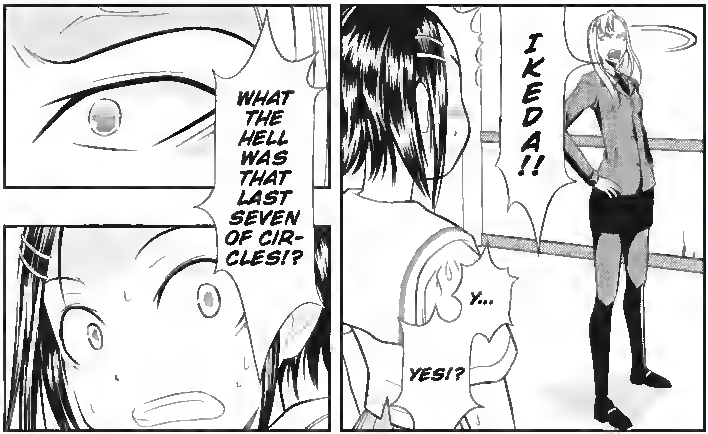

オオ
DOO
Kono Ikeda
The second round for Table H is over —!!

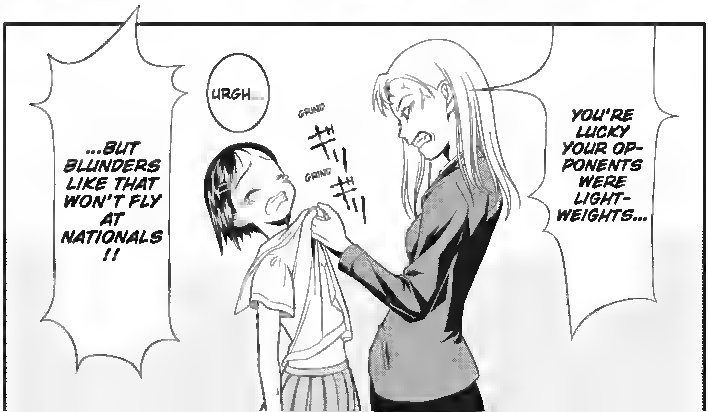

GOOD JOB!!
PIECE OF CAKE!
It's a sweeping victory for Kazekoshi Girls' —!!!
The legendary Kazekoshi is back!!
オオオ
TABLE H
KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
224700
SHIKOYAMA TRADE HIGH SCHOOL
80600
OKATANI FIRST HIGH SCHOOL
83750
KOTOGUKIDAI HIGH SCHOOL
32400
NICE JOB.
THANK YOU.
SECOND-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' KANA IKEDA
THIRD-YEAR CAPTAIN, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' MIHOKO FUKUJI

KAZE-KOSHI IS AWE-SOME—!!
AN EASY VICTORY AGAINST SHIROYA-MA TRADE, WHICH CAME IN THIRD LAST YEAR!
THEY'RE ROCK-SOLID!!
KEEP TALKING ...
LET'S KEEP THIS UP TOMORROW TOO, OKAY?
RIGHT!
THEY MAY BE THE FIVE STRON-GEST PLAYERS IN HISTORY!!
RYU-MON-BUCHI IS IN TROU-BLE THIS YEAR!
Kazukoshi Shiki High School
MONT

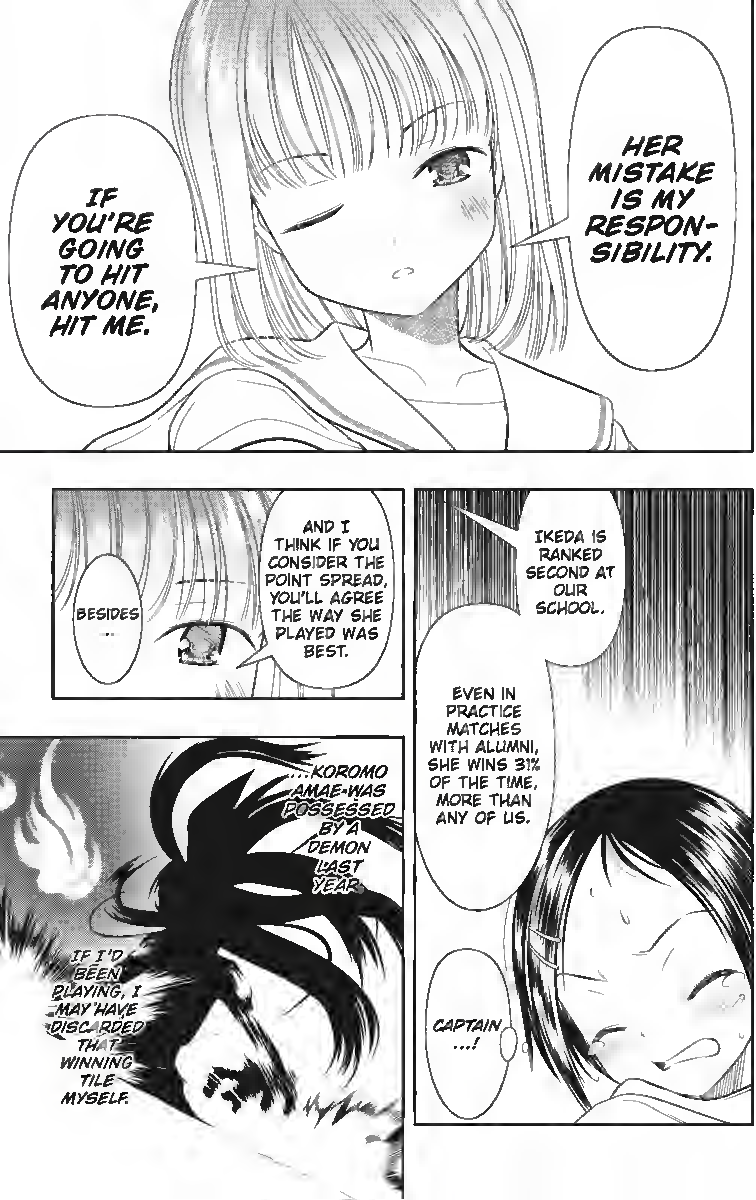

SLAP
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT MATCH ABOUT!?
THE PEOPLE BELOW YOU PLAY LIKE CRAP BECAUSE YOU'RE A NAMBY-PAMBY CAPTAIN!!
ALUMNUS COACH, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' TAKAKO KUBO


BUZZ

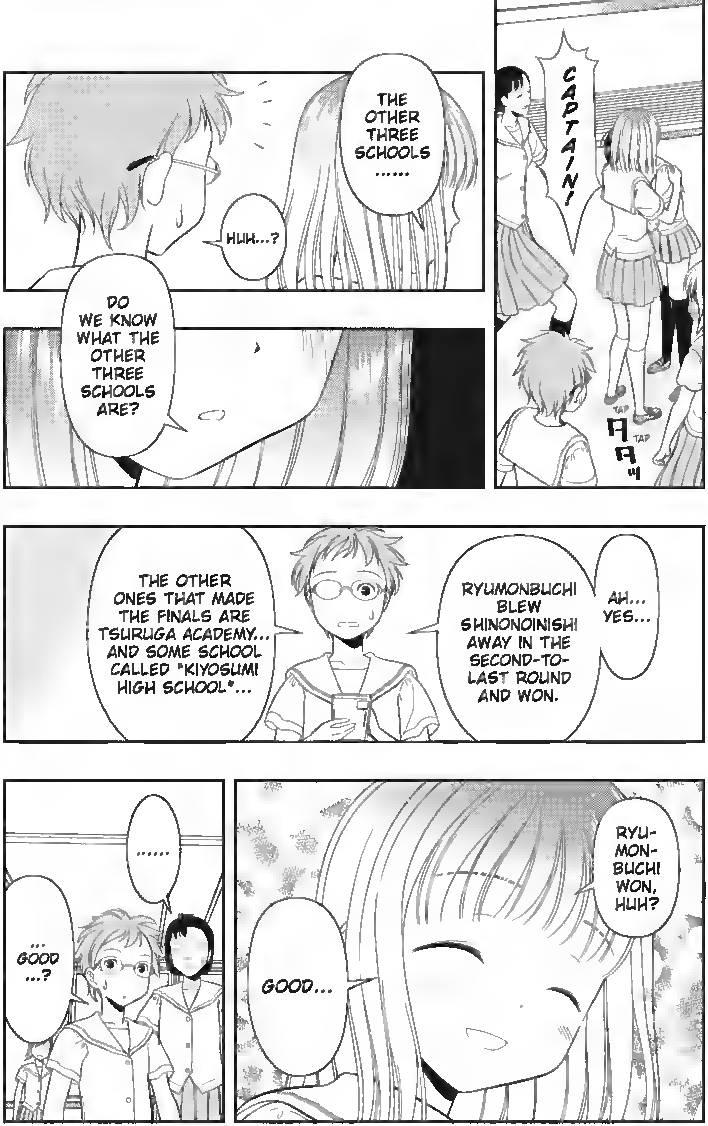

IKEDA!!
Y...
YES!?
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT LAST SEVEN OF CIR-CLES!?

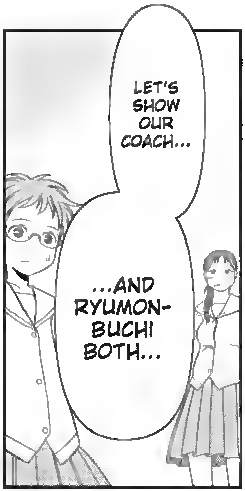

YOU'RE LUCKY YOUR OP-PONENTS WERE LIGHT-WEIGHTS...
GRIND
GRIND
URGH
...BUT BLUNDERS LIKE THAT WON'T FLY AT NATIONALS !!

YOU DISCARDED A WIN WORTH 16,000 POINTS...
!
THAT'S HOW YOU SCREWED THE POOCH LAST YEAR, ISN'T IT?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT'S WHAT DRAGGED OUR PROUD TRADITION THROUGH THE MUD!?
WHAT!?
PLEASE STOP IT!


HER MISTAKE IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO HIT ANYONE, HIT ME.
IKEDA IS RANKED SECOND AT OUR SCHOOL.
EVEN IN PRACTICE MATCHES WITH ALUMNI, SHE WINS 31% OF THE TIME, MORE THAN ANY OF US.
CAPTAIN ...!
AND I THINK IF YOU CONSIDER THE POINT SPREAD, YOU'LL AGREE THE WAY SHE PLAYED WAS BEST.
BESIDES ..
...KOROMO AMAE WAS POSSESSED BY A DEMON LAST YEAR.
IF I'D BEEN PLAYING, I MAY HAVE DISCARDED THAT WINNING TILE MYSELF.

I'M SURE SHE'S BEEN BLAMING HERSELF FOR IT FOR THE PAST YEAR.
ACTU-ALLY...
...I'M PROUD OF HER.
BAM
WE'RE HAVING A SERIOUS MEETING WHEN WE GO BACK TO SCHOOL!
TCH!

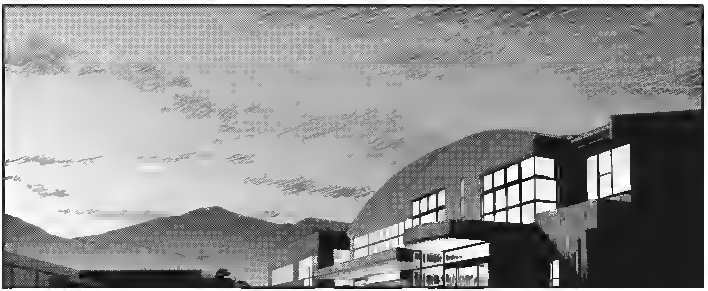

CAPTAIN!
TAP
TAP
THE OTHER THREE SCHOOLS .....
HUH...?
DO WE KNOW WHAT THE OTHER THREE SCHOOLS ARE?
AH... YES...
RYUMONBUCHI BLEW SHINONOINISHI AWAY IN THE SECOND-TO-LAST ROUND AND WON.
THE OTHER ONES THAT MADE THE FINALS ARE TSURUGA ACADEMY... AND SOME SCHOOL CALLED "KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL"...
RYU-MON-BUCHI WON, HUH?
GOOD...
.....
... GOOD ...?

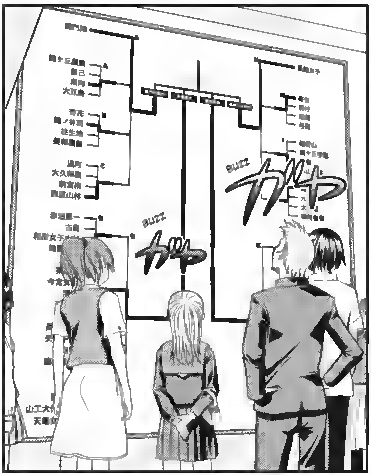

LET'S SHOW OUR COACH...
...AND RYUMON-BUCHI BOTH...

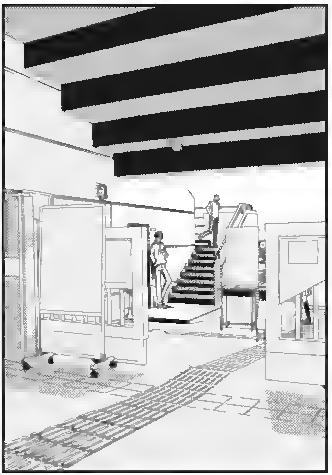
...WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE OUR REVENGE AGAINST THEM.
IF RYUMON-BUCHI DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE FINALS...

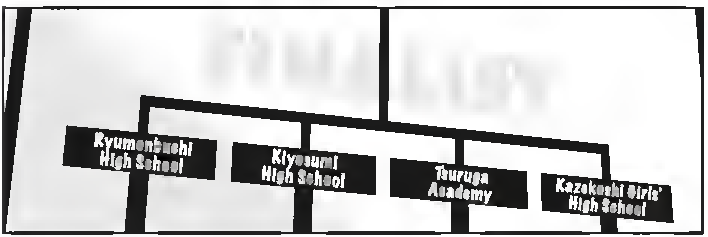
...THE BEST.
...THAT WE'RE...

HAND 12: FINAL FOUR



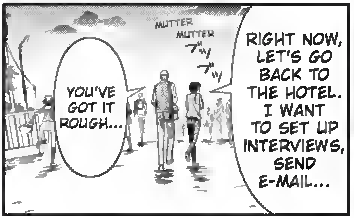

BUZZ
ガヤ
BUZZ
ガヤ




Kyumonbuchi High School
Kiyosumi High School
Tsuruga Academy
Kazokoshi Girls' High School

SFX: TWINKLE
キラ
LET'S COVER THAT ANGLE AT THE FINALS TOMORROW!

TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T EXPECT KIYOSUMI TO MAKE IT.
I GUESS IT GOES TO SHOW THEY'RE NOT NODOKA HARAMURA'S ONE-WOMAN TEAM.


MUTTER MUTTER
YOU'VE GOT IT ROUGH...
RIGHT NOW, LET'S GO BACK TO THE HOTEL. I WANT TO SET UP INTERVIEWS, SEND E-MAIL...

HERE YA GO— ROASTED PORK RAMEN!
BAM

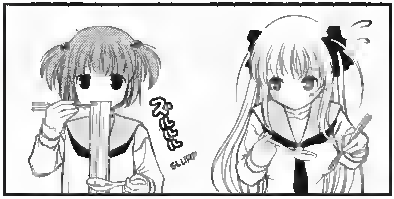
SIGN: RAMEN

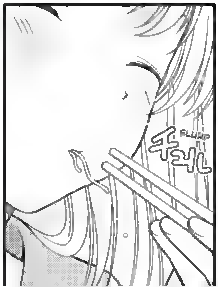
ラーメン
IT LOOKS DELI-CIOUS...
.....
THANK YOU!
WOW!
THIS IS ON ME, SO FILL UP TO PREPARE FOR THE FINALS.

SIGN RAMEN

.....
ズズ SIP

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME HAVING RAMEN, NODO-CHAN?
I...I KNOW WHAT RAMEN IS.

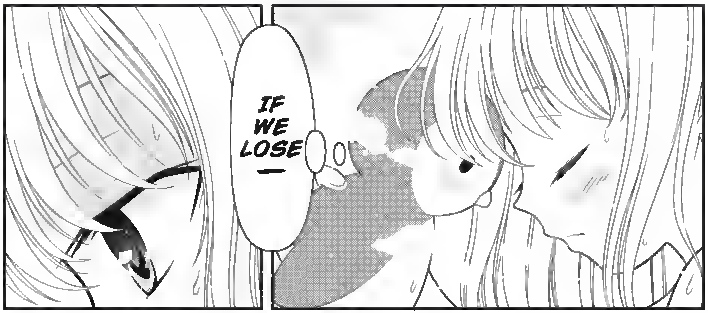

ズルル SLURP

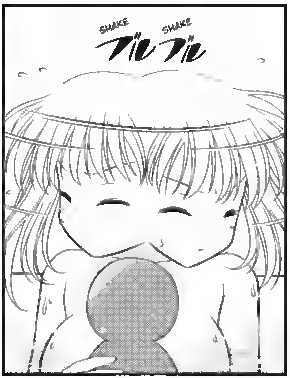

ズルル SLURP

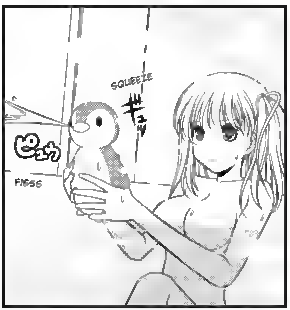
THUMP
THUMP

I'LL TAKE SECONDS, MISTER!
DELI-CIOUS ...
I THOUGHT EVERYONE WOULD BE MORE NERVOUS.
NOT YET.
BUT LATER TONIGHT, I'LL BE SITTING IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM, HOLDING MY KNEES AND TREMBLING.
I DON'T KNOW ...
...IF YOU'RE BEING SERIOUS OR JOKING, BUT I CAN'T LAUGH...
OH.
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW SENSITIVE YOU WERE.
HEY, MISTER! MAKE ME TACO RAMEN!
I DON'T GOT ANY TACOS.

SPLISH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SIGH
PLINK
THE FINALS ARE TOMOR-ROW.....
IF WE WIN, WE GO TO NATIONALS ...


IF WE LOSE—


SHAKE
SHAKE


SQUEEZE
FIDGE

I'M BEAT...
ゴロン
YEAH ...
GOOD NIGHT, DAD!
TOTALLY WIPED...
ゴロ
.....
...BUT IT WAS FUN.

AND SO...

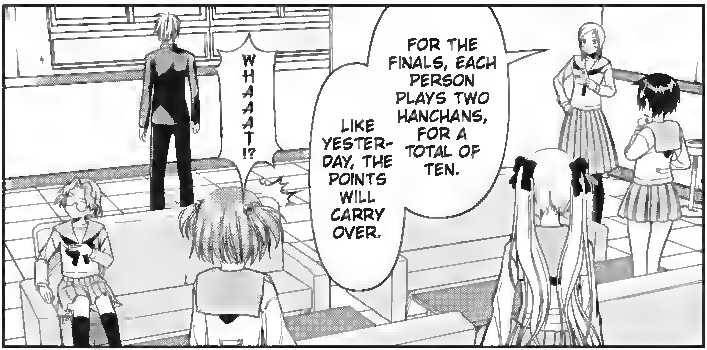
MORNING ...
GOOD MORNING!

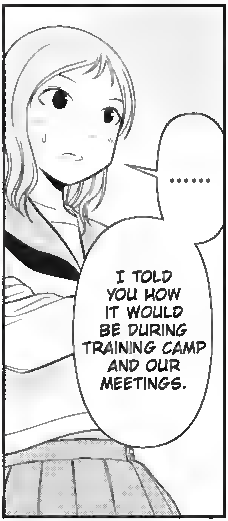
THE DAY OF THE FINALS

It begins ...
...at last— the prefectural qualifier finals!!

ROAR
KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
Like it or not, only one of these schools can go on to nationals!
KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
What kind of battle will they show us today...!?
RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
TSURUGA ACADEMY

Kiyosumi High School
Sitting Room


WHAAAT!?
LIKE YESTERDAY, THE POINTS WILL CARRY OVER.
FOR THE FINALS, EACH PERSON PLAYS TWO HANCHANS, FOR A TOTAL OF TEN.

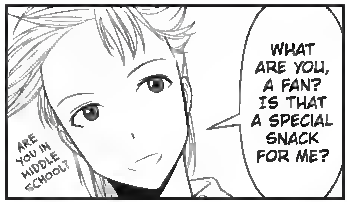

.....
I TOLD YOU HOW IT WOULD BE DURING TRAINING CAMP AND OUR MEETINGS.

I ONLY BROUGHT ENOUGH TACOS TO GET ME THROUGH ONE...
TWO HAN-CHANS PER PERSON ...
GRUMP

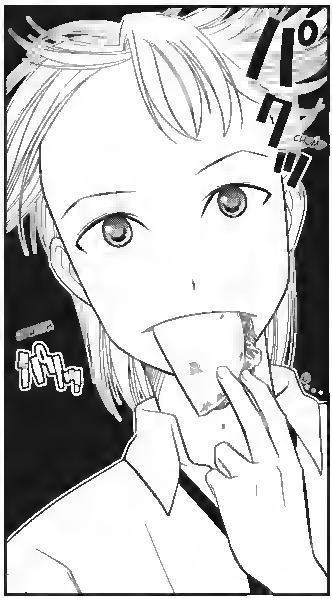
I DON'T KNOW IF ANY PLACE WILL BE OPEN THIS EARLY...
HUH?
KYOTAROU! GO BUY ME SOME TACOS!
TAP TAP
The first half of the match will begin in ten minutes.
DING
!
The first players are —...
ANYWAY, I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
A—

I'M OFF!!
FLASH
Yuuki Kataoka, a first-year at the up-and-coming Kiyosumi High School!
CAP-TAIN!
GOOD LUCK!!
Mihoko Fukuji, a third-year at Kazekoshi Girls'! Can they take back the throne?
Mutsuki Tsuyama, a second-year at Tsuruga Academy, an unknown school that's been putting up a good fight!
G-GOOD LUCK...
THANKS.
I'LL DO MY BEST.

Playing Room A
Jun Inoue, a second-year at Ryumonbuchi High School! Will they kick some tail again this year!?
ALRIGHT...
FOO
PLAYTIME.
The first round of the final battle— is about to start!!
CAN I BRING IN A TACO?
AS LONG AS YOU FINISH EATING IT BEFORE THE GAME STARTS.


ARE YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
WHAT ARE YOU, A FAN? IS THAT A SPECIAL SNACK FOR ME?

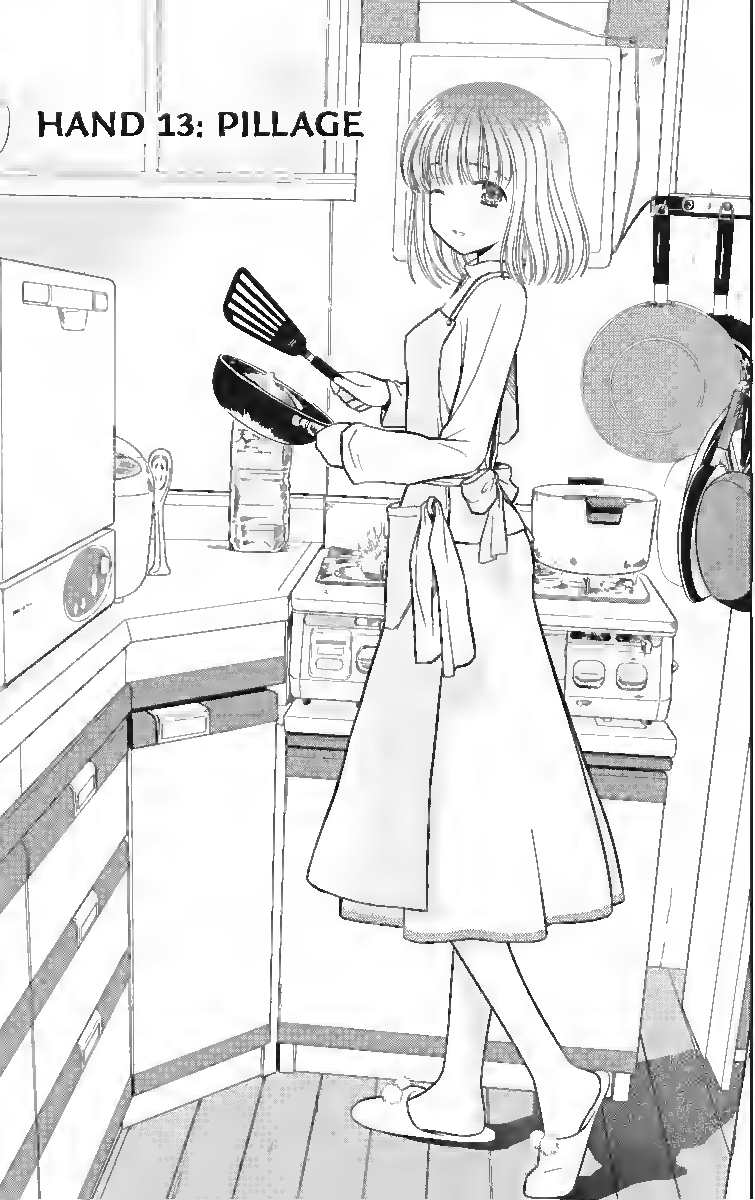
I DON'T KNOW IF JUST ONE TACO WILL GET ME THROUGH THIS...
OH.
FAP
HUH?


CRUNCH

WAH...
AHHH...
SOB
IT'S OKAY.
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOME BIG, SCARY GIRL BULLY YOU?
THAT BEAN-POLE STOLE MY TACO...
BEAN POLE!!
RIGHT THERE!!
LOOK, I'M SORRY...
IT WAS A MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING.
MAYBE SHE'S HUNGRY.
I KNOW!

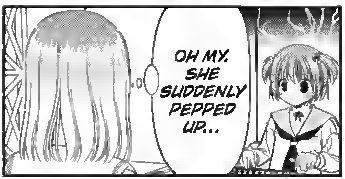
HERE!
じゃーん
TA DAAA
WHAT IS IT?
MY HOME-MADE LUNCH.
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
SNAP
パシャッ
THE ONLY THING I WANT IS A TACO...
!
TH—
THIS IS!!

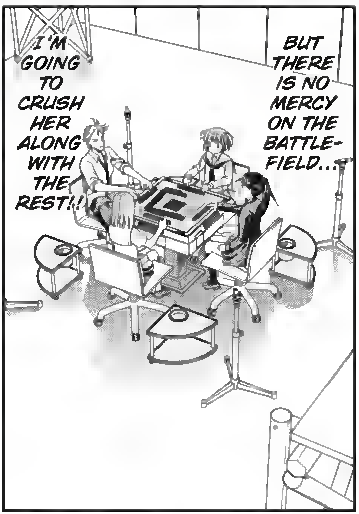
HAND 13: PILLAGE



CHAK
RATTLE
RATTLE
The first round of the finals—
...has begun!!
CHEW CHEW
YOU GUESSED IT—
AND THAT'S WHAT WAS IN HER LUNCH...
IT'S NOT JUST TACOS, BUT ANYTHING WITH "TACO" IN ITS NAME GIVES ME POWER.

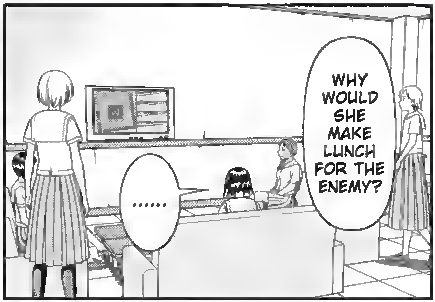
TAKO: OCTOPUS IN JAPANESE



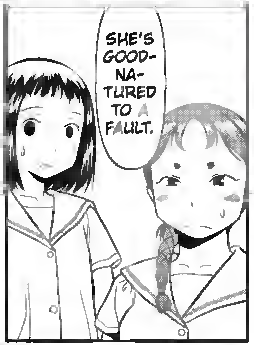


LAST YEAR WE SUFFERED A HUMILIATING DEFEAT AT THEIR HANDS...
HOLDING MY OWN WAS ALL I COULD DO.....
GLANCE
チラッ
BUT I HAVE TO SHOW THEM THAT THIS YEAR IS DIFFERENT.
Kazekoshi Girls' High School
Meeting Room
CAP-TAIN...

I'M SURE EVEN YOU FIRST-YEARS KNOW THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON SHE IS.

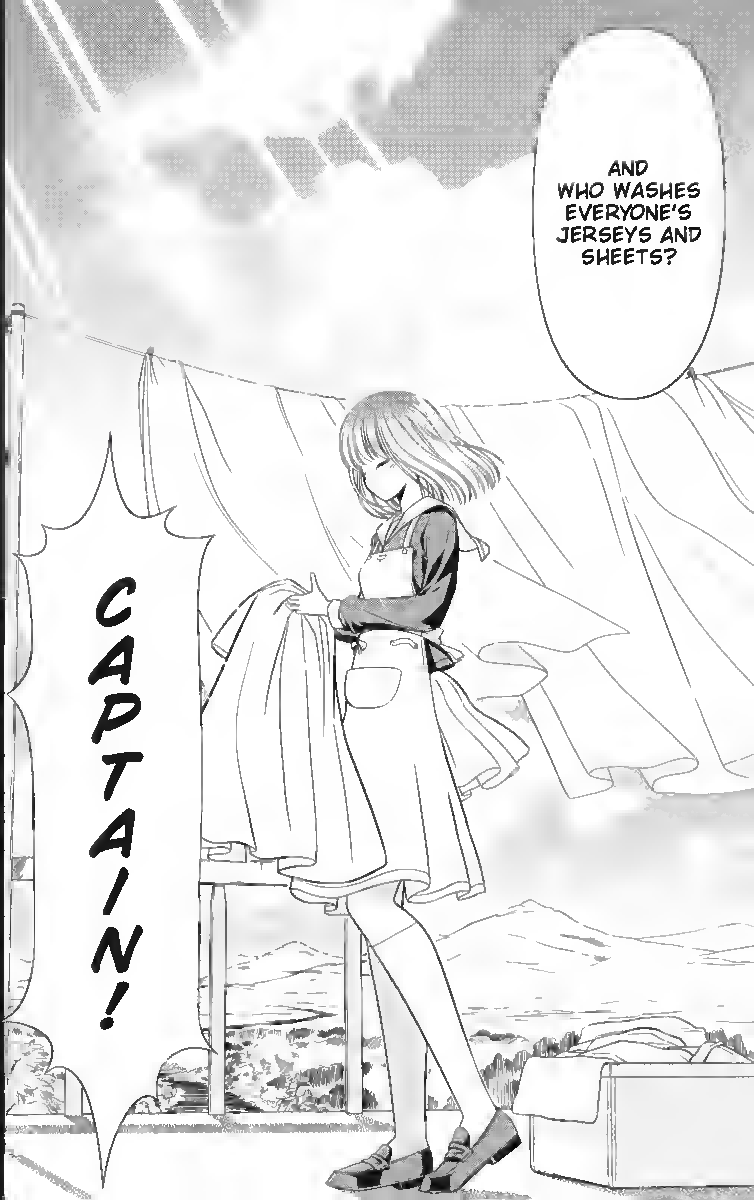

WHY WOULD SHE MAKE LUNCH FOR THE ENEMY?
.....

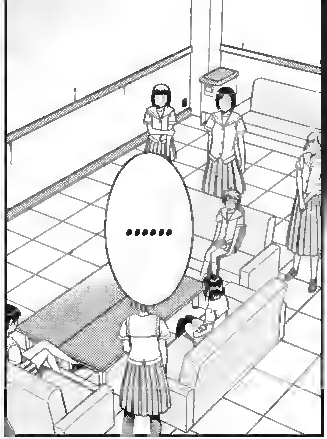
UNTIL LAST YEAR, THE LOWEST-RANKED FIRST-YEAR OF KAZEKOSHI'S MAHJONG CLUB WOULD DO ALL THE CHORES.
BUT—


SHE'S GOOD-NATURED TO A FAULT.

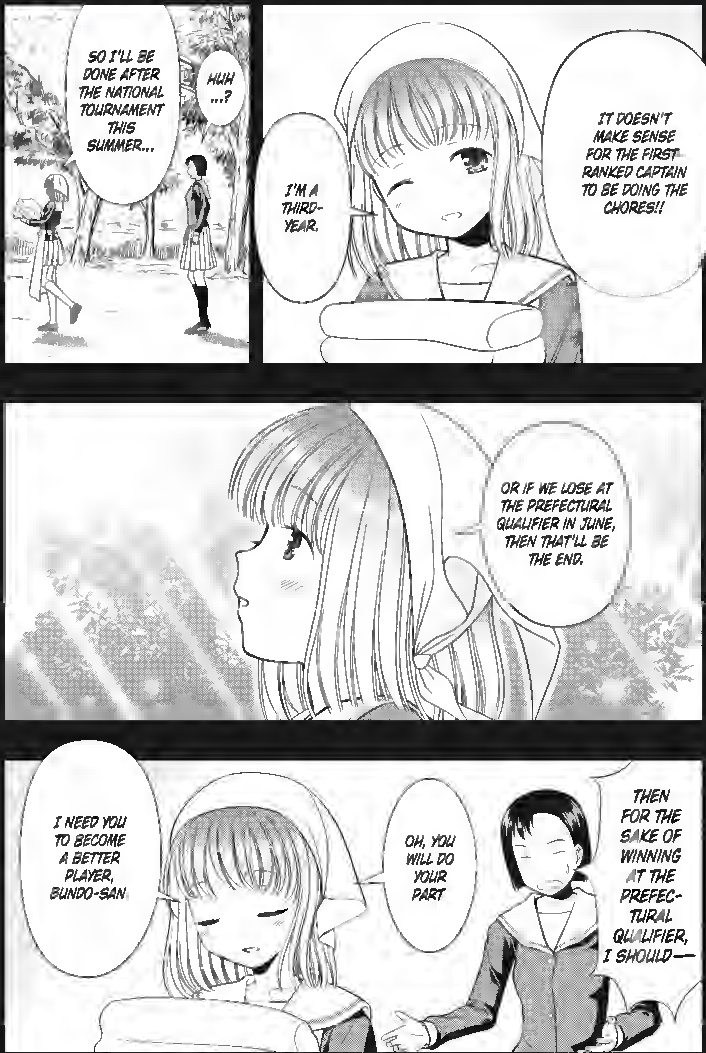
AT TRAINING CAMP, WHO ALWAYS DOES THE SHOPPING AND COOKS DINNER?
CAPTAIN.

...DO YOU REMEMBER WHO ALWAYS CLEANS THE CLUB-ROOM?
C-CAPTAIN ...

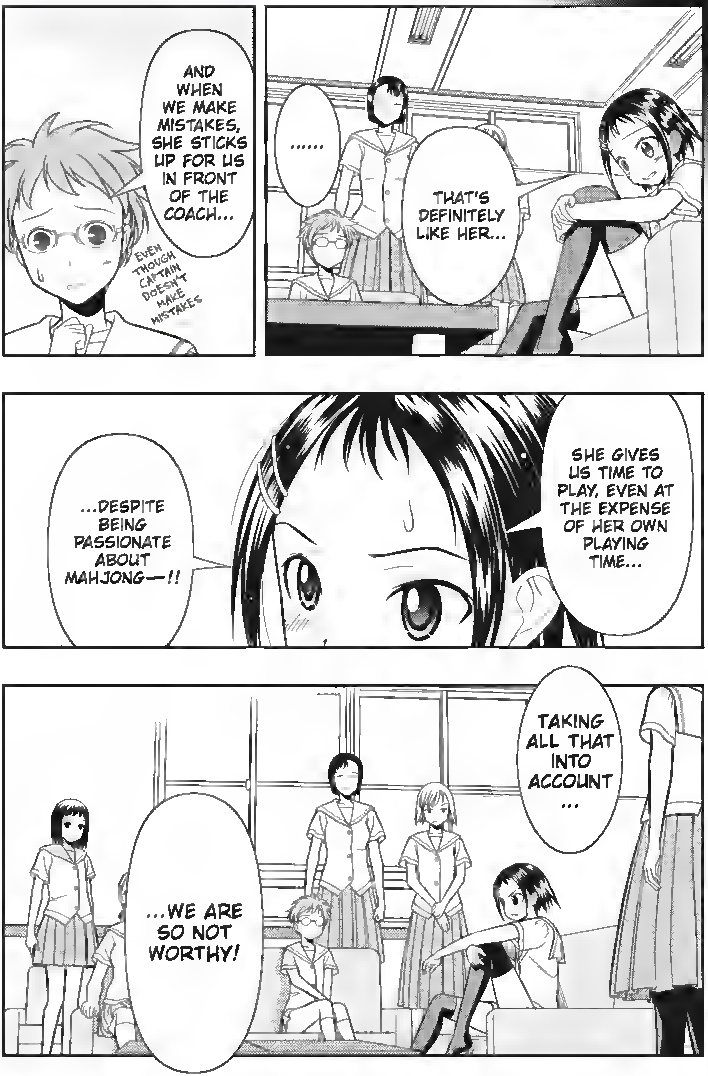

AND WHO WASHES EVERYONE'S JERSEYS AND SHEETS?
CAPTAIN!

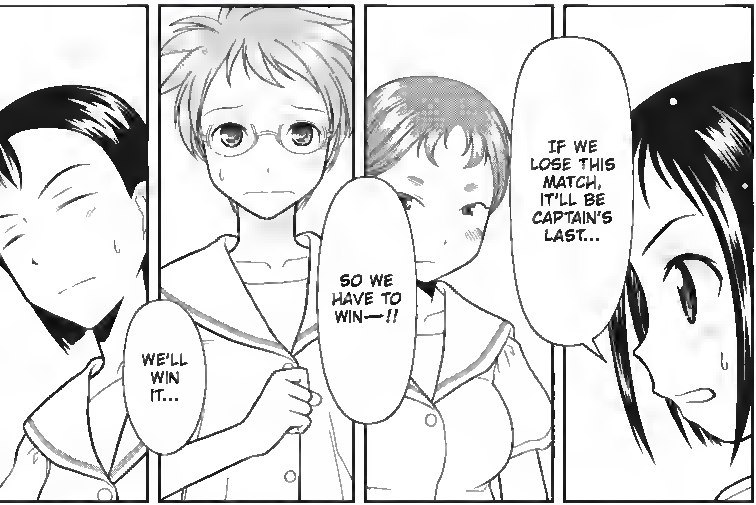


*ALL PUNGS: WINNING HAND WITH FOUR PUNGS OR KONGS AND ONE PAIR. 2 YAKU
THREE CONCEALED PUNGS: THREE PUNGS/KONGS THAT ARE ALL SELF-DRAWN. 2 YAKU

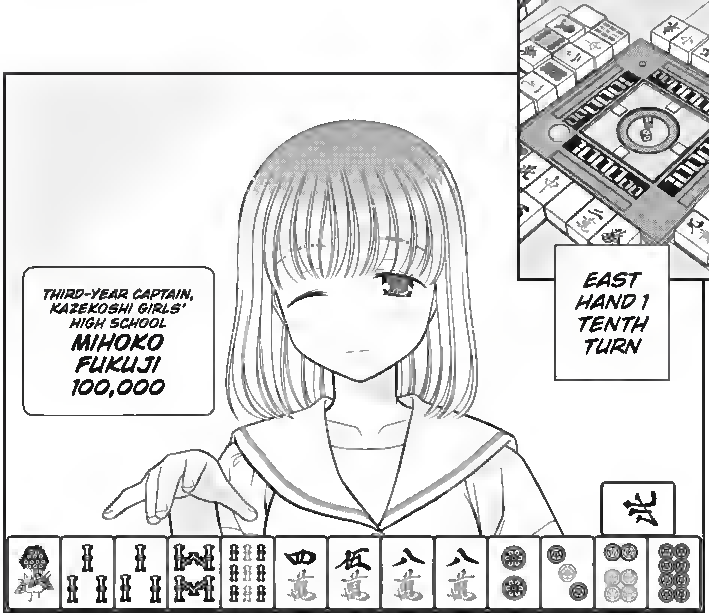

SO I'LL BE DONE AFTER THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS SUMMER...
HUH ...?
I'M A THIRD-YEAR.
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR THE FIRST-RANKED CAPTAIN TO BE DOING THE CHORES!!
OR IF WE LOSE AT THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER IN JUNE, THEN THAT'LL BE THE END.
I NEED YOU TO BECOME A BETTER PLAYER, BUNDO-SAN.
OH, YOU WILL DO YOUR PART
THEN FOR THE SAKE OF WINNING AT THE PREFEC-TURAL QUALIFIER, I SHOULD—

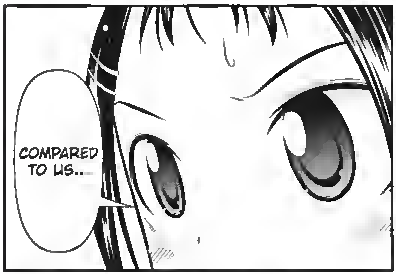
THE DAY MAY COME...
...WHEN YOU LEAD THE WAY FOR KAZEKOSHI
.....
EVEN THOUGH I'M RANKED AT 78...?
OF COURSE.
BE-SIDES...
...I WANT EVERYONE TO TOUCH THE TILES
!!
I WANT EVERYONE TO ENJOY PLAYING MAHJONG MORE AND MORE.


AND WHEN WE MAKE MISTAKES, SHE STICKS UP FOR US IN FRONT OF THE COACH...
EVEN THOUGH CAPTAIN DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES
.....
THAT'S DEFINITELY LIKE HER...
SHE GIVES US TIME TO PLAY, EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF HER OWN PLAYING TIME...
...DESPITE BEING PASSIONATE ABOUT MAHJONG—!!
TAKING ALL THAT INTO ACCOUNT ...
...WE ARE SO NOT WORTHY!

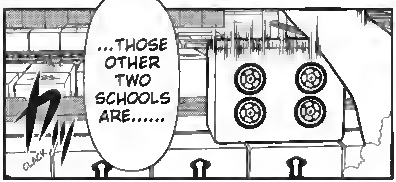

IF WE LOSE THIS MATCH, IT'LL BE CAPTAIN'S LAST...
SO WE HAVE TO WIN—!!
WE'LL WIN IT...

...AND HAVE FUN WITH CAPTAIN AT NATIONALS IN AUGUST!!


EAST HAND 1 TENTH TURN
THIRD-YEAR CAPTAIN, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
MIHOKO FUKUJI
100,000

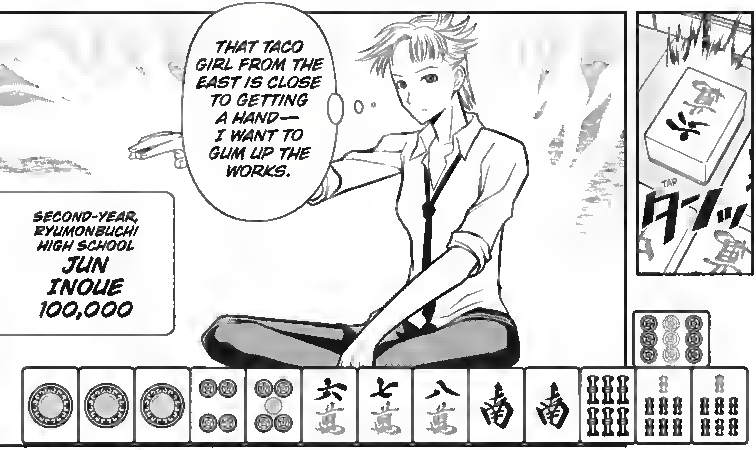

COMPARED TO US...

SHE'S NOT GETTING ANY HANDS.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S PLAYING FINE...

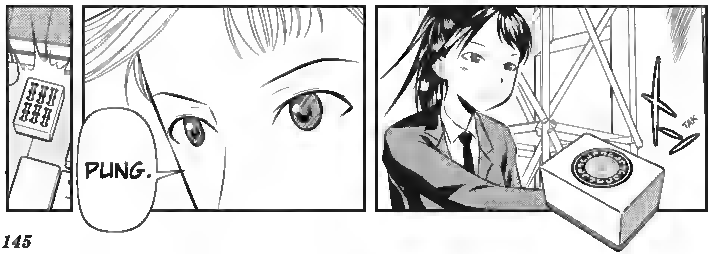

...THOSE OTHER TWO SCHOOLS ARE.....

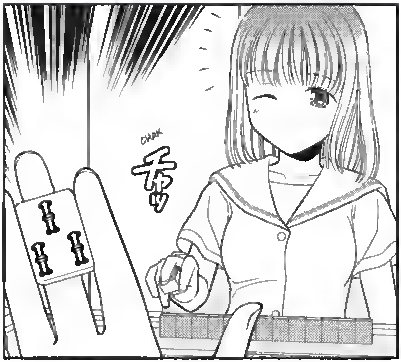
DEAL-ER
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
YUUKI KATAOKA
100,000
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE EAST ROUND, WHEN I'M USUALLY INVINCIBLE, IT TOOK ME ALL THIS TIME TO GET ONE STEP AWAY FROM FISHING*...
MAYBE THE TAKO-WIENERS WERE WEAK AFTER ALL...?

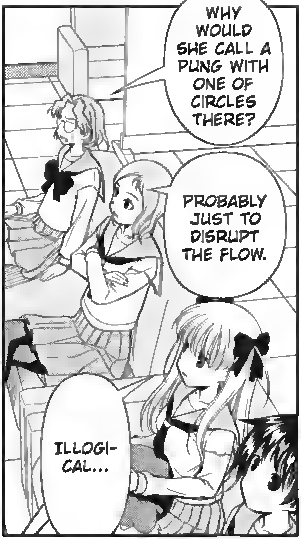
ONE STEP AWAY FROM FISHING: NEEDING TWO MORE TILES FOR COMPLETION


THAT TACO GIRL FROM THE EAST IS CLOSE TO GETTING A HAND— I WANT TO GUM UP THE WORKS.
SECOND-YEAR, EYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
JUN INOUE
100,000
TAP

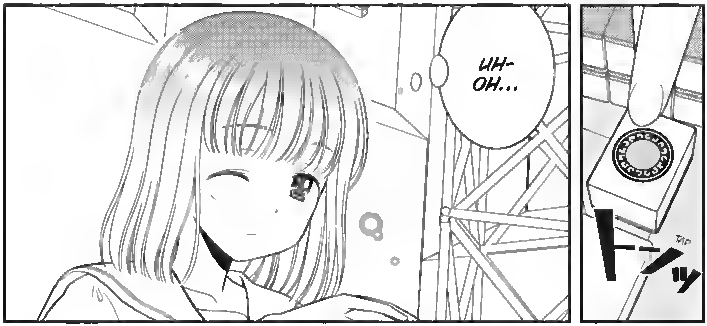
FROM THE EAST. THE DEALER

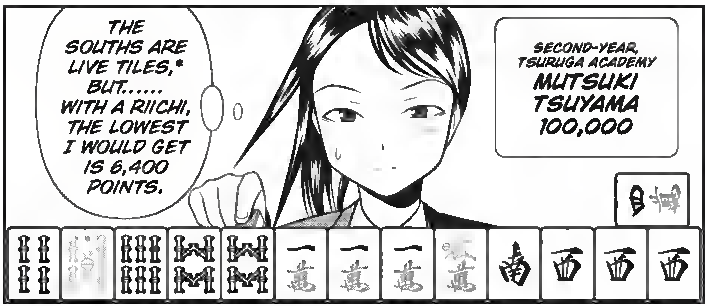




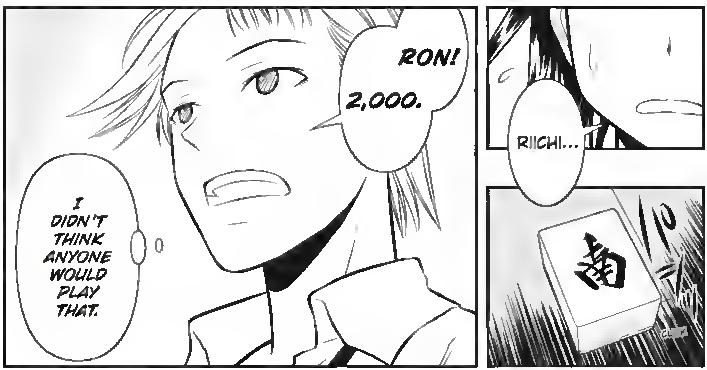


IF A SET IS CALLED, THE ORDER OF DRAWING TILES FROM THE WALL CHANGES

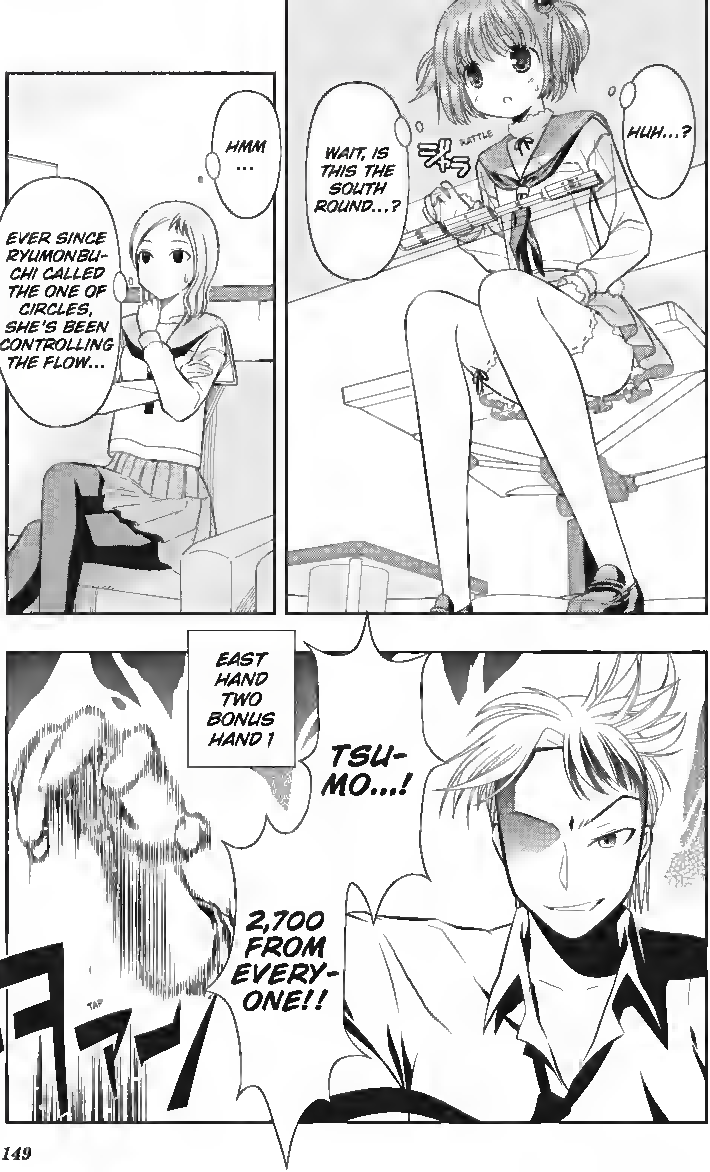



THE SOUTHS ARE LIVE TILES,* BUT..... WITH A RIICHI, THE LOWEST I WOULD GET IS 6,400 POINTS.
SECOND-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY
MUTSUKI TSUYAMA
100,000

*LIVE TILES: TILES THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN DISCARDED THIS ROUND



EAST HAND 2 DEALER: INOUE
CHOW ...
CLACK
5,800.
RATTLE
TAP
RON.

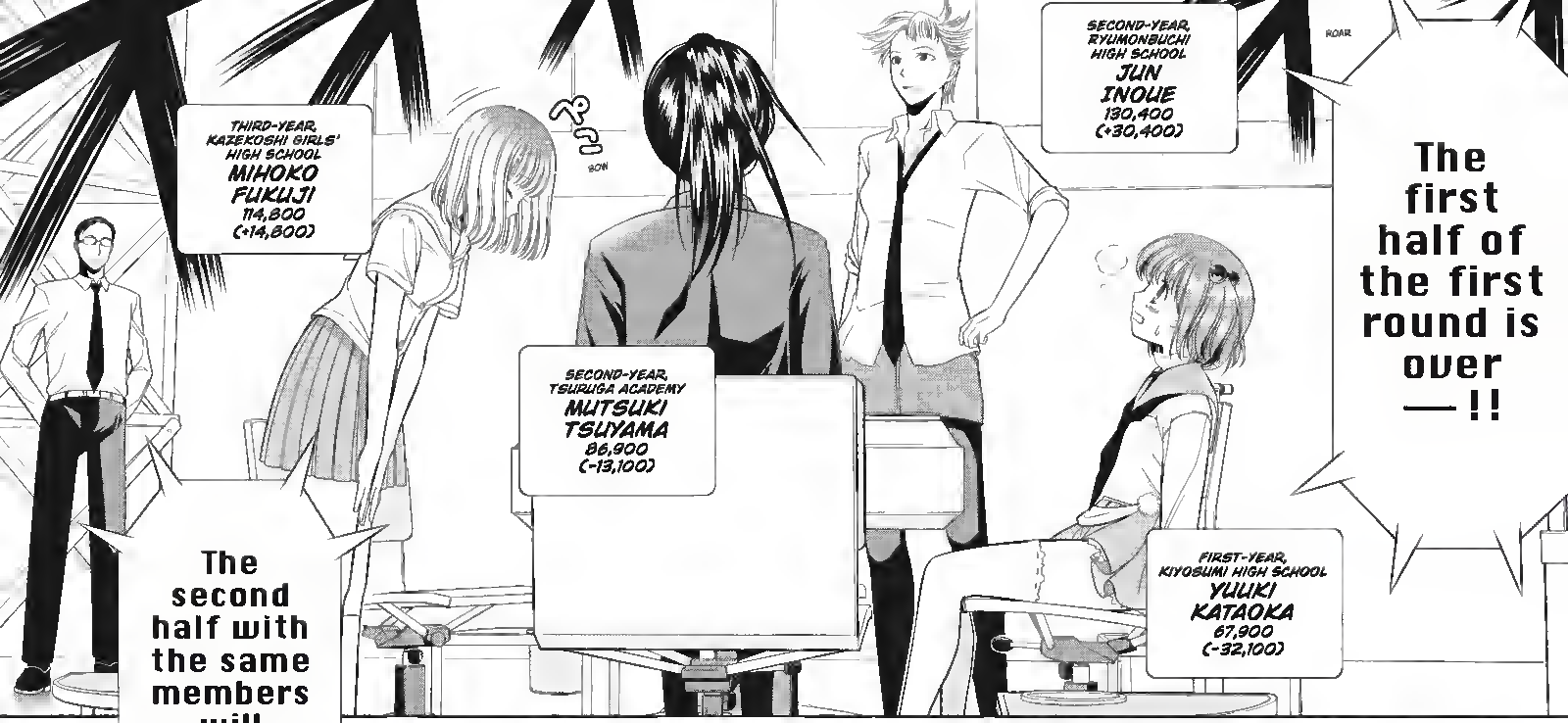

HMM...
EVER SINCE RYUMONBUCHI CALLED THE ONE OF CIRCLES, SHE'S BEEN CONTROLLING THE FLOW...
RATTLE
WAIT, IS THIS THE SOUTH ROUND...?
HUH...?
EAST HAND TWO BONUS HAND 1
TSU-MO...!
TAP
2,700 FROM EVERY-ONE!!

EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE EAST ROUND ...
...I HAVEN'T WON A SINGLE HAND!
.....
トン
RON.
12,600!
FWOOSH

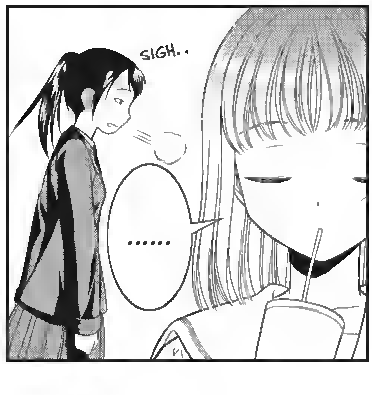
I CAN'T LET THIS GO ON... AT THIS RATE...
...SHE WON'T HAVE EATEN JUST MY TACO!

SHE'LL TAKE EVERY-THING AWAY FROM ME—!!

HAND 14: ADVANCE


THIRD-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
MIHOKO FUKUJI
114,800
(+14,800)
SECOND-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY
MUTSUKI TSUYAMA
86,900
(-13,100)
SECOND-YEAR, RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
JUN INOUE
130,400
(+30,400)
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
YUUKI KATAOKA
67,900
(-32,100)
BON
ROAR
The first half of the first round is over —!!
The second half with the same members will resume after a five-minute break!

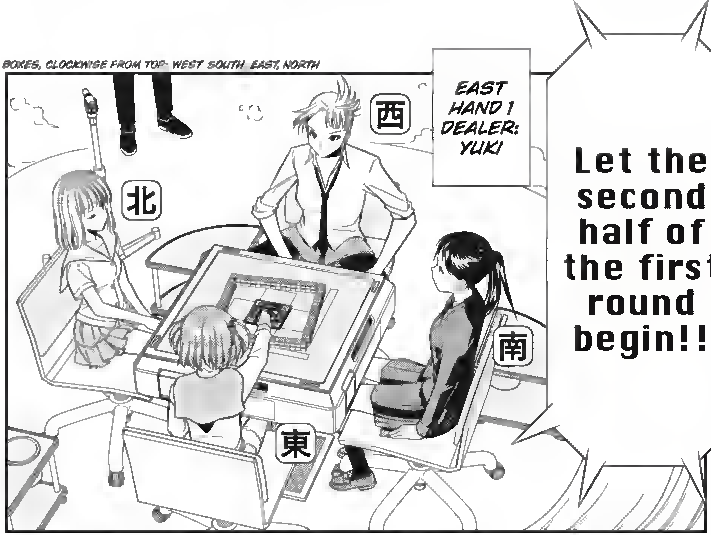
WHAT ARE YOU SO DOWN ABOUT?
I DIDN'T WIN ONE HAND...


SIGH..
.....

I'M NOT SATISFIED.

OH!!
SORRY I'M LATE.
HUH?
TH-THAT'S...
TACOS
...TACOS!!

YOU'RE A GOOD DOG!!
WAG
WAG
DOG?
WELL DONE, KYOU-TAROU!
WELL, I'M NO ENEMY OF TACOS...
ALL RIGHT!
LICK
There's no curse! You owe Mexico an apology!
ARE YOU ALSO CURSED WITH A LOVE OF TACOS?
WHAT?
MM!
I'M BACK TO FULL TACO STRENGTH!

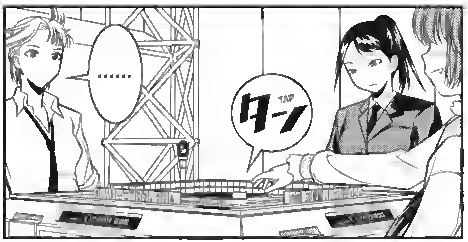


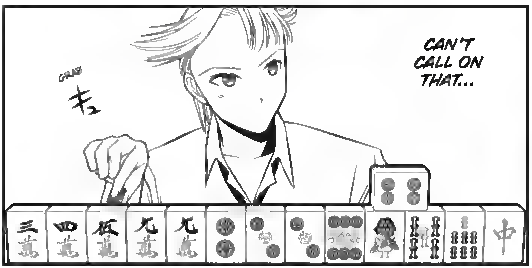
YAKITORI: OTHER THAN THE FOOD. A MAHJONG SLANG TERM FOR A PLAYER WHO DOESN'T WIN A SINGLE HAND BY THE END OF THE GAME

SIGN: EAST

...HAS COME ROUND AGAIN!!
MY SPECIALTY, THE EAST ROUND...

SEEMS LIKE THE MUNCHKIN HAS SOMETHING GOOD COOKING AGAIN..


.....
TAP
ロン


CAN'T CALL ON THAT...

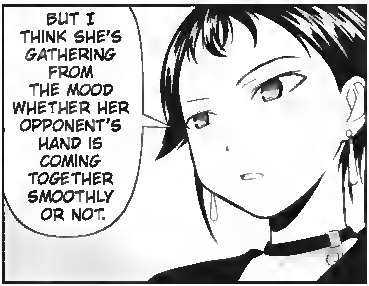
TAP
GRAB
WITH A 30,000 POINT SPREAD, CAN I AFFORD TO LEAVE HER ALONE?
THERE IT IS!
FLASH
RICH!!

CHOW!!
TAP
NOPE...
100% SAFE TILE...
CAN'T LET HER BE...!!
FLASH
WHAT'S SHE CALLING THERE..?
I DON'T GET IT..
BUT HER STRANGE CALL IN THE FIRST HALF BUSTED UP YUUKI'S 24,000.
THAT WAS A COINCI-DENCE

CAN'T GET AN IPPA-TSU...
DRAG-ON.....
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT CHOW, SHE WOULD'VE HAD AN IPPATSU...
!!
WHA...?

YEAH.
MM...
Sometimes Inoue of Ryumonbuchi makes calls for no apparent reason.
Broadcasti Room

IT'S AS IF THERE'S A "FLOW" TO THE GAME, AND SHE'S TAKING CONTROL OF IT.
AND EVEN IF SHE CAN DO IT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THOSE CALLS.

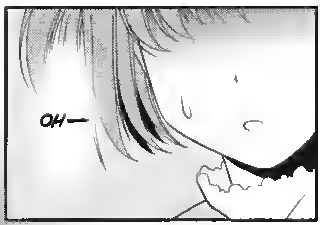

BUT I THINK SHE'S GATHERING FROM THE MOOD WHETHER HER OPPONENT'S HAND IS COMING TOGETHER SMOOTHLY OR NOT.

HUH...?
NOT FOR ME!
IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE .....?

R-RON!
THIR-TEENTH TURN
TAP
トン
OKAY
DRAGON ONLY, 1,300.
I CAN'T BELIEVE A TACO-FUELED YUUKI-CHAN CAN'T WIN ANYTHING DURING AN EAST ROUND...
FOILED AGAIN...
.....

SOUTH HAND 1

.....


OH—

INTO THE SOUTH ROUND, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ...
WHAT IS THIS FEELING? FOR SOME REASON, I HAVE A SENSE OF DÉJÀ VU...

I REMEMBER...

ONE WEEK AGO, AT THE SCHOOL'S TRAINING CAMP BUILDING
バラーン
THUD
UGH. .
I CAN'T DO THIS—!!
WITH YOU THREE AS MY OPPONENTS. .
.. I CAN'T WIN ANYTHING, EVEN IN THE EAST ROUND!!

THEN NODO-CHAN USES HER BOOBS AS A DISTRACTION!
I DO NOT...
FOR SOME REASON, SAKI-CHAN WINS THE HAND BY DRAWING A REPLACEMENT TILE AFTER DECLARING A KONG!
UNBELIEVABLE LUCK!
WHAT!?
YES, MAYBE NOT.
MAYBE I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR MAHJONG...
...PROBABLY ISN'T CUT OUT FOR THIS GAME.
SOMEONE WHO SAYS THOSE THINGS AND THEN JUST STOPS...

TWO YEARS AGO...
THIS IS WHEN I FIRST CAME TO KIYOSUMI...
HERE WE GO WITH A STORY...
AND OFF SHE GOES!
FIRST-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
HISA TAKEI
TWO YEARS AGO
THE TIME. THE SCHOOL'S MAHJONG CLUB WERE MEMBERS IN NAME ONLY, AND THE CLUB WAS ONE STEP AWAY FROM BEING SHUT DOWN.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AND GET THE ONES ON PAPER TO PARTICIPATE, NO ONE STUCK AROUND FOR LONG...
BUT I WANTED TO GO TO NATIONALS.
SURE, I SHOULD'VE GONE TO KAZEKOSHI OR RYUMONBUCHI...
...BUT AT THE TIME, MY FAMILY DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO SEND ME TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL.

WE MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO NATIONALS.
...LOOK WHERE I AM. ALL OF YOU ARE HERE.
BUT NOW...
MAYBE YOU THINK...
...THE CIRCUM-STANCES ARE BAD...
...OR YOU DON'T HAVE TALENT...
IF I'D THROWN IN THE TOWEL BACK THEN, I WOULDN'T BE HERE RIGHT NOW.
...BUT IF YOU JUST KEEP MOVING FORWARD ONE STEP AT A TIME, WITHOUT STOPPING...
...YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO SEE THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

THAT'S RIGHT—
IT ISN'T ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO MAKE A COMEBACK...
...OR DWELLING ON WHAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE.
EVEN IF ONLY A LITTLE...
I HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN RIGHT NOW!!

I'M GOING TO FINISH THIS BY AT LEAST WINNING ONE POINT —!!

...THAT I COULDN'T WHEN I WAS READY TO GIVE UP!!
SPIN
くるっ

EXCUSE ME...
IF I KEEP MOVING FORWARD, I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE THINGS...

CHUCKLE
クス
WHAT THE...!?
THIS SHOW-DOWN IS JUST GET-TING START-ED—!!
RATTLE
RATTLE
I'M BACK IN THE SADDLE!!

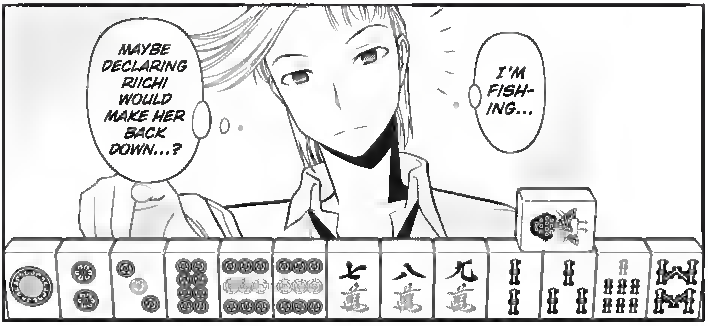
HAND 15: ENLIGHTENMENT

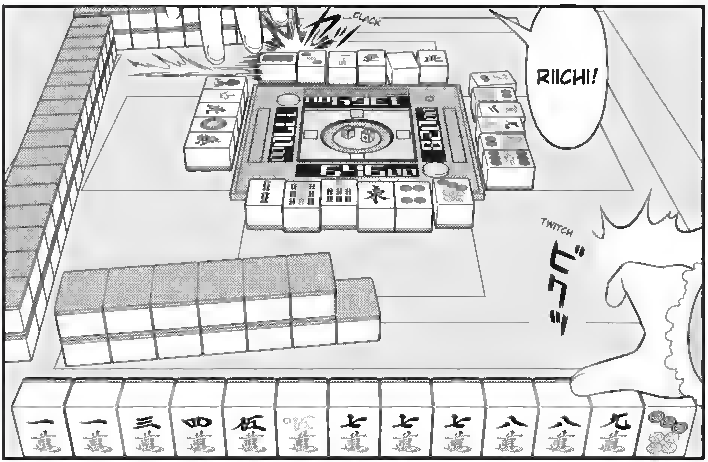
PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER FINAL, SECOND HALF OF THE FIRST ROUND
THIRD-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
MIHOKO FUKUJI
117,000
SECOND-YEAR, RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
JUN INOUE
136,400
SOUTH HAND 1 DEALER: YUKI
I'M NOT GIVIN' UP...
SECOND-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY
MUTSUKI TSUYAMA
82,000
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
YUUKI KATAOKA
64,600

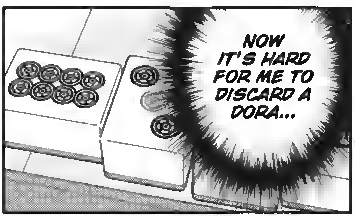
I'M GOING TO FINISH THIS BY AT LEAST WINNING ONE POINT...
I WON'T GIVE UP ON MOVING FORWARD —!!

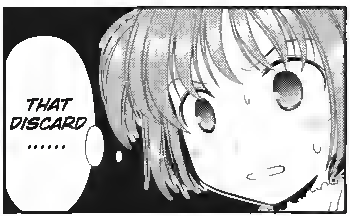
AND I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO CAUSE CONFUSION BY CALLING SOMETHING.
I SENSE THE MUNCHKIN IS MAKING PROGRESS WITH A HAND.
SIXTH TURN—
SEVEN PAIRS* WITH THREE DORA WOULDN'T BE BAD...
CHAK
DISCARD-ING A DORA...
...BUT THIS'LL BE WORTH EVEN MORE!!
TAK
トン
TAK

*SEVEN PAIRS: WINNING HAND COMPOSED OF SEVEN PAIRS


MAYBE DECLARING RIICHI WOULD MAKE HER BACK DOWN...?
I'M FISHING...

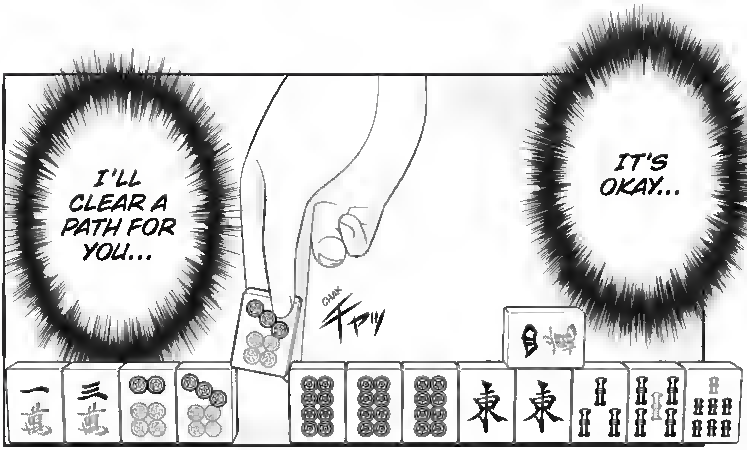

CLACK
RIICHI!
TWITCH
ビクッ

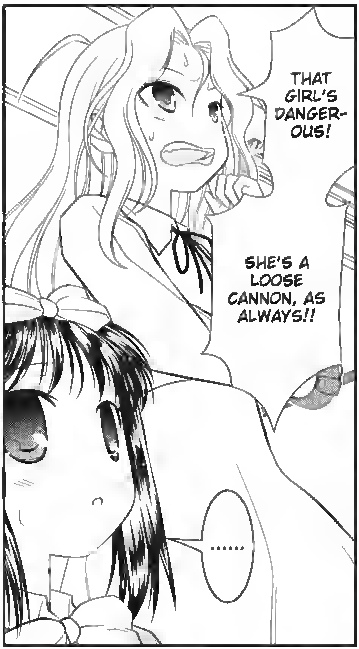

NOW IT'S HARD FOR ME TO DISCARD A DORA...

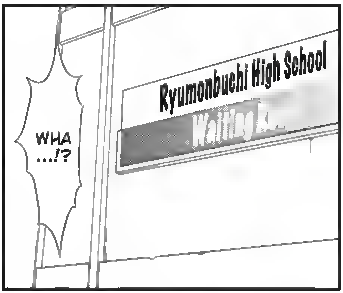

THAT DISCARD .....

MAYBE SHE'S GOT ALL CHARACTER TILES NOW?
PERSONALLY, THAT WOULD BE MY CHOICE.
SHOULDN'T SHE HAVE KEPT THE DORA AND GONE FOR THE SEVEN PAIRS INSTEAD?
I'M IN A BIND...
YOU JUST CURL UP IN A BALL, LITTLE GIRL—!!

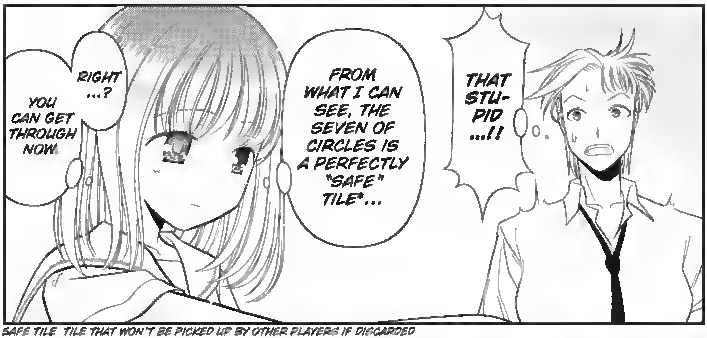
ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
CONSIDERING HER HABIT OF SORTING THE TILES*T AND HER EYE MOVEMENTS...
...THEY'RE ALL CHARACTER TILES EXCEPT FOR THE ONE AT THE END.
*SORTING THE TILES: ARRANGING TILES IN ONE'S HAND BY SUIT OR TYPE
CHUCKLE
IN REGARDS TO HER RIICHI, NOT BEING ABLE TO DISCARD THAT SEVEN OF CIRCLES HAS HER HANDS TIED.


I'LL CLEAR A PATH FOR YOU...
IT'S OKAY...

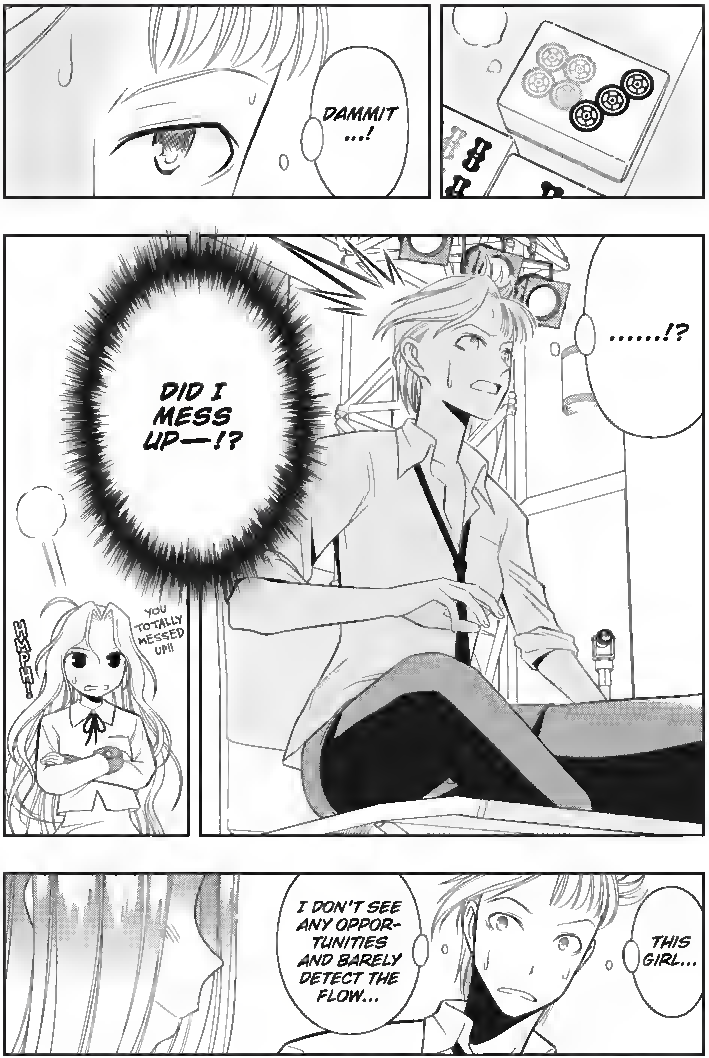

THAT GIRL'S DANGER-OUS!
SHE'S A LOOSE CANNON, AS ALWAYS!!
.....


Kyumonbuchi High School
WHA ...!?

A SEVEN OF CIRCLES THERE!?

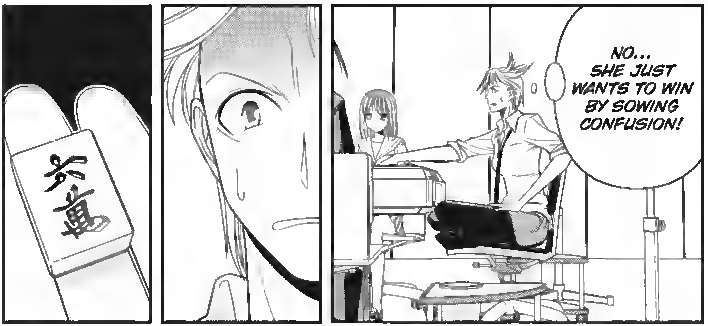


SAFE TILE TILE THAT WON'T BE PICKED UP BY OTHER PLAYERS IF DISCARDED

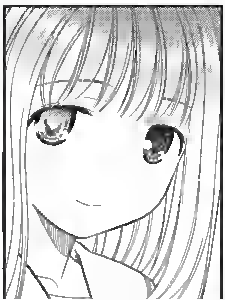

DAMMIT ...!
DID I MESS UP—!?
.....!?
YOU TOTALLY MESSED UP!!
ESSAGE
I DON'T SEE ANY OPPORTUNITIES AND BARELY DETECT THE FLOW...
THIS GIRL...

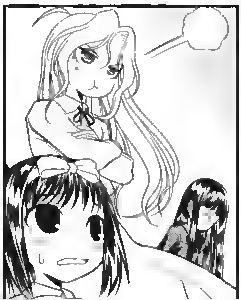
...BUT I CAN TELL SHE'S HELPING THE TACO MUNCH-KIN.

GRIN
DOES SHE WANNA BRING ME DOWN ...!?

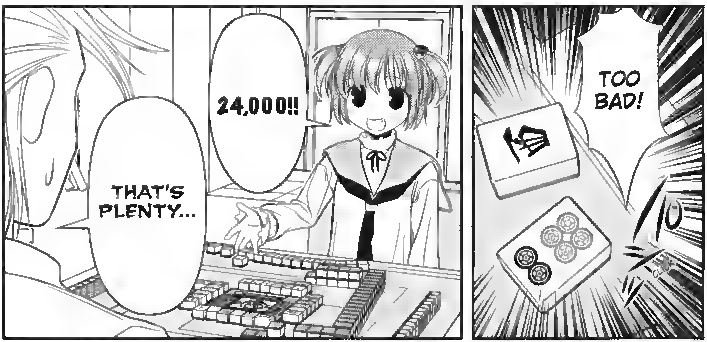

NO... SHE JUST WANTS TO WIN BY SOWING CONFUSION!

RON!!





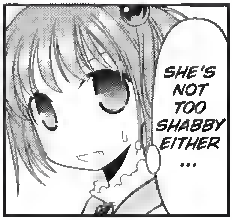
*MENCHIN: YAKU IN WHICH THE PLAYER HAS ONLY TILES OF ONE SUIT AND HASN'T CALLED ANY TILES



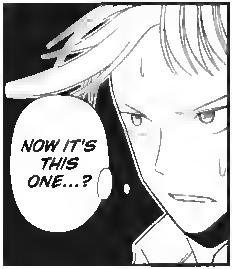
*PINFU: A CONCEALED WINNING HAND THAT CONSISTS OF CHOWS, A PAIR THAT ISN'T A VALUE PAIR, AND AN OPEN WAIT

SEC-
OND
TURN
TAP
CHOW
—!
SOUTH
HAND 1
BONUS
HAND 1
FIRST
TURN
CLICK
PUNG!
THIRD
TURN
HEY,
GIMME A
BREAK!
TAP
SQUEEZE
EAST, TWO
DORA. 5,800
BECOMES
6,100!
RON!

...IS ON MY SIDE!?
GYUN
THIS GIRL...
THUMP
THUMP
SOUTH HAND 1 BONUS HAND 2
THE CAPTAIN OF KAZEKOSHI IS GIVING THE MUNCHKIN A BOOST...
SHIT...!
CLICK
PUNG!
I'VE GOTTA BREAK THIS FLOW—

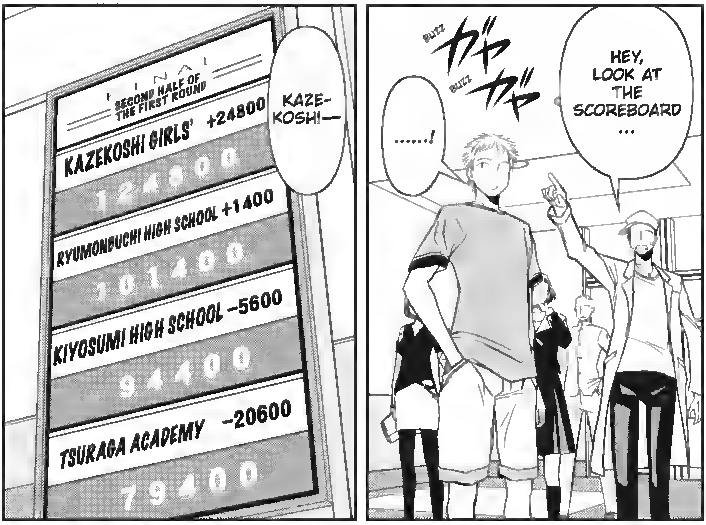

SHE'S NOT TOO SHABBY EITHER ...

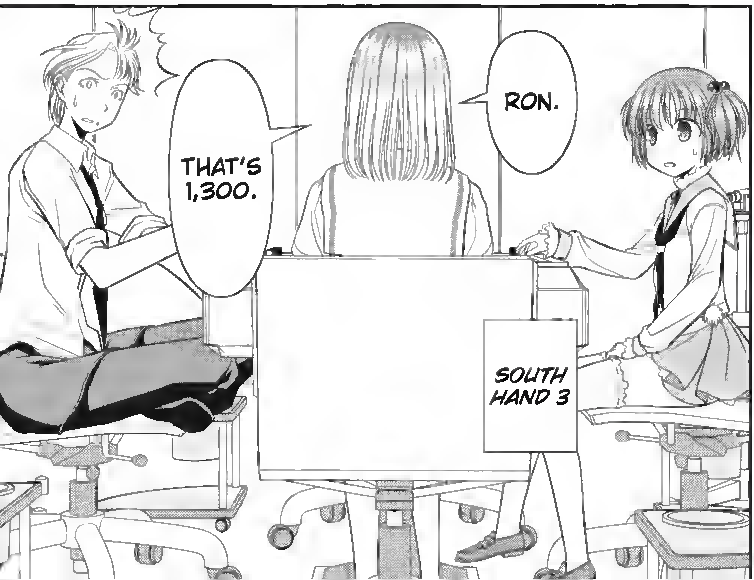
RON.
2,000 BECOMES 2,600 IN THE SECOND BONUS HAND.


NOW IT'S THIS ONE...?

WHOA... THIS GIRL IS...

SOUTH HAND 2
TSUMO. THAT'S 1,300/2,600.
HUH!?
WHA!?


SECOND HALF OF THE FIRST ROUND
KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' +24800
124000
RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL +1400
101400
KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL -5600
94400
TSURAGA ACADEMY -20600
79400
KAZE-KOSH!—
BUZZ
ガヤ
BUZZ
ガヤ
.....!
HEY, LOOK AT THE SCOREBOARD ...


RON.
THAT'S 1,300.
SOUTH HAND 3

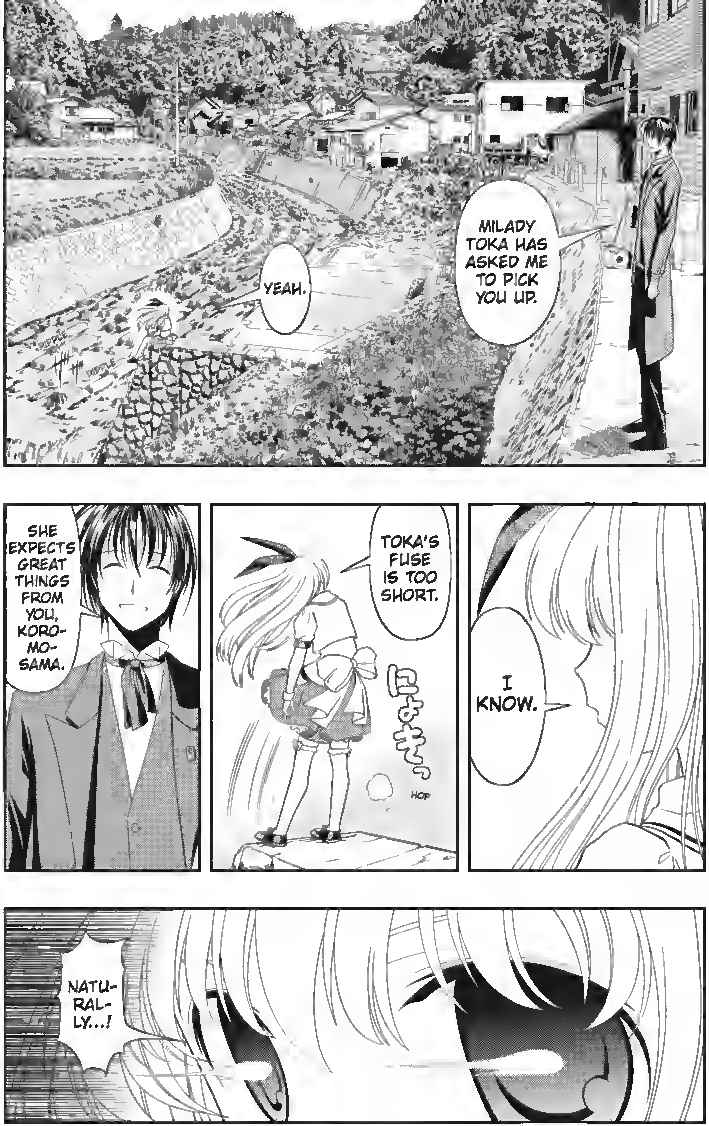
SOUTH HAND 4 BONUS HAND 3
8,600!
RON.
THIS GIRL...
...IS NOT MY ALLY!!

END OF THE ROUND

ROAR
THIRD-YEAR, KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
MIHOKO FUKUJI
142,000
(+42,000)
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
YUUKI KATAOKA
88,900
(-11,100)
BOOM
SECOND-YEAR, TSURUGA ACADEMY
MUTSUKI TSUYAMA
81,400
(-18,600)
SECOND-YEAR, RYUMONBUCHI HIGH SCHOOL
JUN INOUE
87,700
(-12,300)
The first round of the finals is over —!!!

FAAH
Kazekoshi Girls' has an overwhelming lead—!!

KO-ROMO-SAMA!


MILADY TOKA HAS ASKED ME TO PICK YOU UP.
YEAH.
SHE EXPECTS GREAT THINGS FROM YOU, KORO-MO-SAMA.
TOKA'S FUSE IS TOO SHORT.
HOP
I KNOW.
NATU-RAL-LY...!

THERE'S NO WAY ANY OF THOSE INFERIOR CREA-TURES...
...WILL BEAT KOROMO !!

!
AH... NOTHING...
YAWN.
WHAT'S WRONG?
.....

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Editor
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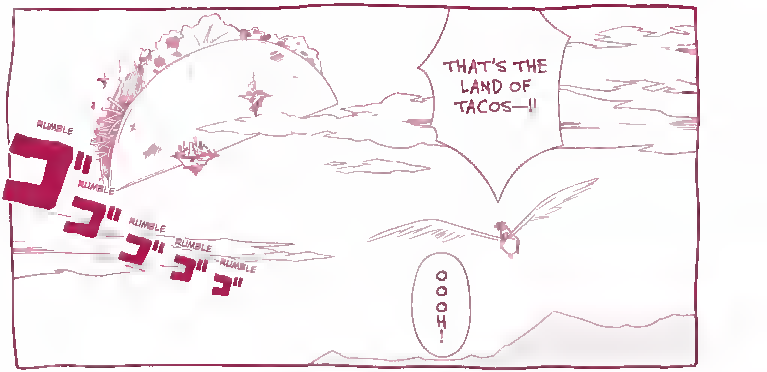
SAKI 2 END

Saki ②
...THAT ATE TACOS!!?
CRACK
CRACK
WINGS SPROUT FROM A CAPYBARA ...
CRACK
IT TALKS —!?
YUKI-CHAN, RIDE ON MY BACK!!
CAPY—!!
LET'S FLY TO THE LAND OF TACOS!
ドーン
OKAY!



TO BE CONTINUED!

SAKI 2

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